United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 147 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2001 No. 106

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Monsignor James G. Kelly, St. Margaret's Church, Buffalo, New York, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, Lord of creation, all praise and thanks to You for the commission and gifts which You have given to us Your children to continue Your work in the world through the formation and fostering of civilization on this earth. Praise and thanks to You for this blessed Republic of ours and for the women and men who serve willingly and generously in its governance. Look with favor on the elected Members of this House of Representatives, bless them and guide them that they may not only enact laws that are just but also be the voice of those who have no voice, the most vulnerable and marginal of our society. Help these men and women to be persons who lead through the example of honesty, reverence for our traditions and integrity. Praise and thanks to You, our God, forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAFALCE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) will be recognized for 1 minute. All other 1-minutes will be postponed until the end of the day.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND MONSIGNOR JAMES G. KELLY

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I want to both welcome and thank Monsignor Jim Kelly from St. Margaret's Roman Catholic Church on Hertel Avenue in Buffalo, New York, for coming here this morning and offering the opening prayer.

When I was a very young man coming out of law school, I was hired by one of the most prominent firms in Buffalo, Jackle, Fleischman, Kelly Swart, and Ausberger. It was Monsignor Kelly's dad, Harry Kelly, one of the best trial lawyers western New York has ever seen, who gave me my initial start. His sister Therese and her husband Tom bought a home just two doors away from the home that I lived in on Starin Avenue in the Town of Tonawanda.

The name Kelly is very, very Irish, but he ministers with great care and love and compassion to the parishioners of St. Margaret's, which is over 70 percent Italian American. He, in addition to that, tries, probably harder than anyone else, to promote peace and justice within the Diocese of Buffalo, because he is the Chairman of the Peace and Justice Commission for the Diocese of Buffalo.

Monsignor Kelly, we welcome you here today and we also say to you, one day late, Happy Birthday.

DISAPPROVAL OF NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TREATMENT TO PRODUCTS OF VIETNAM

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 55) disapproving the extension of the waiver authority contained in section 402(c) of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to Vietnam, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of H.J. Res. 55 is as follows:

H.J. RES. 55

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress does not approve the extension of the authority contained in section 402(c) of the Trade Act of 1974 recommended by the President to the Congress on June 1, 2001, with respect to Vietnam.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, July 25, 2001, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to yield one-half of my time to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Trade of the Committee on Ways and Means and that he be permitted to yield the time as he sees fit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to House Joint Resolution 55 and, therefore, in support of extending Vietnam's Jackson-Vanik waiver. I believe this waiver represents the best hope for continued political and economic reform in Vietnam and, therefore, greater market access for American companies in one of Southeast Asia's most important emerging economies.

These three key issues come to bear on this question: Has Vietnam made

Printed on recycled paper.

progress in emigration? Have we continued despite great difficulty improving and committing ourselves to accounting for our servicemen still missing in action? And on free and equal access to trade and investment opportunities for American companies?

In each case, I believe the answer is yes. As we enter a new decade of bilateral cooperation, efforts to normalize relationships on both sides are bearing fruit.

Mr. Speaker, I was part of the first trade delegation ever to go to Vietnam under the leadership of then chairman of the Subcommittee on Trade Mr. Gibbons of Florida. We ventured to Hanoi and to Ho Chi Minh City. Although conditions, especially in the north of Vietnam, were relatively bleak, even at that time you could see the potential of then more than 75 million individuals who had an extremely high literacy rate and who seemed to be more than willing to work hard. The thing that struck me the most was the fact that there was an enormous number of foreigners in the country working on various trade arrangements. What was most striking is that virtually none of them were American. It was a clear indication that Vietnam, notwithstanding the difficulties we have with the government structure and notwithstanding the concerns that many of us have about the complete ability to account for our servicemen and women missing in action, that the United States if we continued our then current position was going to miss out; miss out not only in terms of economic opportunities but miss out in shaping this country which I believe will have a significant and positive impact in Southeast Asia.

Promoting emigration is at the core of the Jackson-Vanik structure. Vietnam, I believe, has taken significant steps to liberalize its emigration practices. Among other achievements, it has cleared for interview all but 73 of the nearly 21,000 individuals who have applied for consideration under the Resettlement Opportunity for Vietnamese Returnees program.

In addition to that, we really believe that the continued improvement in this area of human rights depends upon extending the Jackson-Vanik waiver, to let us positively influence the direction of Vietnam's economic and political future.

We in addition to this Jackson-Vanik waiver will today in the Committee on Ways and Means be considering a bilateral trade agreement between Vietnam and the United States. That will afford us further opportunities both as trading partners and a growing relationship which will eventually hopefully move to a strong friendship, a remembrance of our past relationships with a commitment to make sure in Southeast Asia this does not occur, because frankly I believe that Vietnam will be one of the key nations in Southeast Asia as it continues to grow in its trade relationships around the world. We saw with Thailand in 1997 how one country's instability can quickly spread to others. I believe over the next several decades, Vietnam can be an anchor for economic improvement in Southeast Asia but probably more important a laboratory in how we can move toward a more democratic structure in a regime that currently cannot be determined to be democratic.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to yield half of my time to my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) so that he may be permitted to yield time as he sees fit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to begin by saying that I have been now twice as a Congresswoman to Vietnam. I represent the largest Vietnamese segment of population outside of Vietnam in Orange County, California. Today's issue of the Jackson-Vanik is really an issue about emigration and our ability to make sure that reunification of families is happening here in the U.S., those who want to leave Vietnam and have been approved by the United States and their ability to get the right papers out of the Vietnamese government in order to make it here and come and join their families.

As the person who represents the largest group of Vietnamese people here in America, certainly our office gets to deal with all the problems of emigration between these two countries, the United States and Vietnam. That is really what this Jackson-Vanik waiver is about, whether the country of Vietnam is working in a positive manner to help us get that family reunification done. I would like to say that from our experience, and I will get into it in a little while, they have not. In fact, they are obstructing our ability to reunify our families here in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN), another one of my California colleagues who has been working very much with the Vietnamese community.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 55, a resolution denying the President's waiver for Vietnam from Jackson-Vanik freedom of emigration requirements. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

I am proud to represent a community, Santa Clara County, that has been greatly enriched by the contributions of its Vietnamese American residents. For many years as an immigration attorney, a local elected official, and now as a Member of Congress, I have had the opportunity to work with these Americans on two issues close to their hearts and to mine, immigration and human rights. So it is these two issues that are at the forefront of my own thoughts as we discuss trade with Vietnam.

I continue to hear constantly stories about religious persecution, political repression, and unwarranted detentions coming from the Vietnamese American community in San Jose and from contacts overseas. That is why several weeks ago I along with the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) hosted a hearing on human rights in Vietnam here in the Capitol.

Let me tell you what we learned at that hearing:

Religious persecution is common in Vietnam despite the guarantees in chapter V, article 70 of the Vietnamese Constitution that citizens shall enjoy freedom of belief and religion.

Portions of the Vietnamese penal code indirectly contradict guarantees of religious freedom. For example, Vietnamese citizens can be prosecuted for ''undermining national unity'' and ''promoting divisions between religious believers and nonbelievers.'' Additionally the government of Vietnam has consistently violated article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that ''everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.''

This is borne out by the treatment that the Catholic church, the Buddhists and the Christian Montagnards have experienced at the hands of the Communist government.

□ 1015

In the course of this debate, we must not forget the names of those fighting for freedom in Vietnam:

Father Nguyen Van Ly, Father Chan Tin, Le Quang Liem, Father Nguyen Huu Giai, Father Phan Van Loi, the Venerable Thich Huyen Quang, the Venerable Thich Quang Do, Rev. Thich Tri Sieu, and Rev. Thich Tue Si.

Mr. Speaker, we must make sure that we use this tool that we have. I am a firm believer in trade, but I also know that we have individual relationships with each country, and we must use the tools available to us. We have a window of opportunity with Vietnam, and I know that if we insist that Vietnam improve its human rights record as a condition of trading with America, we would gain human rights advances in Vietnam.

So I think it is a tragic mistake for the United States to decline to use this tool that is available to us that would be effective in gaining freedom for those who are oppressed because of their religious beliefs in Vietnam.

For the priests and the devout who are persecuted today in Vietnam by the Communist government, I can only offer my embarrassed apologies that President Bush and this Republican leadership would turn a deaf ear to your suffering.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I join in opposition to this resolution, and I support the waiver for another year. We should be clear what is before us today. This waiver relates to the availability of export-related financing from OPIC and Ex-Im and the Department of Agriculture, and not broader than that.

Last year's vote in favor of the resolution was 93 and opposed 332. It was a bipartisan vote, with 23 Democrats voting in favor of it. I do not see any reason why we should step back. I do not think there is any rationale for moving backwards instead of sustaining this approach.

Our relationship with Vietnam, as we all know so well, has been a very complicated one. The war was indeed a bitter one and a deep and bitter experience for this country. We had very difficult relations with Vietnam for good reasons.

Then, in the nineties, a decision was made to lift the trade embargo that had been in place for 20 years, and in 1995 we opened a U.S. embassy in Hanoi, and it was in 1998 that the waiver of this nature first occurred. Since then, the waiver has been upheld.

There has been some progress, progress in terms of missing in action issues that are of deep concern to us. Recently nine Vietnamese died helping us in the search for U.S. MIA's. There has also been some improvement in emigration. It is far from perfect, but I do not think anybody would say the situation today is the same as it was 4 or 5 years ago.

I think that we need to find, as we did last year with China, a combination of engaging and pressuring of Vietnam, and it seems to me that to pass this resolution does not find at all the right combination.

We are endeavoring to help promote a free market economy in Vietnam. There are some steps in that direction.

We are going to be considering, as the chairman said earlier, a bilateral trade agreement in the Committee on Ways and Means this afternoon. That was negotiated about a year ago, and has only recently been submitted to us for action.

In that bilateral trade agreement, we will be considering a number of issues. It does not, in my judgment, address all the issues that need to be considered in our economic relationship with Vietnam. At some point there is going to be a desire to negotiate a textile and apparel agreement.

As I have expressed to the administration and to colleagues on my committee, and will express again this afternoon, it is vital as we go forth in our relationship with Vietnam that we consider all of the relevant economic and trade-related issues, including those of labor markets and the economy. The bilateral agreement before us this afternoon does not fully do that, though I favor moving ahead with it, with the proviso I have mentioned.

But the issue today before us is whether we should continue this waiver, whether it is a useful and, as I think, important part of the continuing efforts to find the right combination in our relationship with this country. It remains a command economy, there is no doubt about it. It remains a country where there is command by a central party over much of Vietnamese life. There is no doubt about it.

Therefore, we have to continue to press on the economic end in a broad way; we have to continue to press in terms of human rights, never give that up. But voting for this resolution today I think misses the best way to do that, and, therefore, while understanding and indeed lauding the concerns of those who support this, I would urge that we continue the path that was set a number of years ago of engaging and pressuring Vietnam.

The vote last year was really an overwhelming one, and I think the evidence since then indicates we should continue that approach and not step backwards.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced House Joint Resolution 55, a resolution disapproving the extension of the President's waiver for the corrupt communist regime in Vietnam on the Jackson-Vanik provision of the Trade Act of 1974.

During the past 12 months, despite previous Presidential waivers, the communist regime in Vietnam has actually increased its brutal repression, especially against religious leaders and other members of the clergy; it has increased its repression of those who are advocating democracy; and it has increased its repression against ethnic tribal minorities.

When we take a look, especially at that last category, today, as we speak, the Montagnards, who were great allies of the United States of America, who risked their lives in order to save thousands of Americans, are under severe attack by the government of Vietnam. Yet we sit here and extend to them, again, a waiver on their conduct? I do not think so.

This Member of Congress spent some time with the Montagnards in 1967. I was in a small camp near Pleiku, Vietnam, and I found the Montagnard people, although they are very short people, to be some of the most courageous people in the world. Yet they cast their lot with us, and we abandoned them at that time at the end of the war. In 1967, probably some of those Montagnards were responsible for my life.

I did not spend a great deal of time up there, it was part of a political operation in the highlands of Vietnam, but I will say this: These people who risked their lives for us and then were abandoned at the end of the war, I remember thinking, whatever happened to those people? In 1975, I remember asking myself that.

Well, today, let us not abandon those people who fought for democracy in Vietnam again. Let us not abandon America's friends, again, by giving a waiver to a corrupt and tyrannical dictatorship that now controls Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, what does this waiver really do? By the way, we are talking about waivers. I would like to thank my colleague from Michigan for outlining exactly what it does do and what we are really talking about today. Are we talking about breaking relations with Vietnam? No, this waiver would not do that. By rejecting this waiver, we would not be isolating Vietnam.

We are not talking about embargoing Vietnam. That is not what rejecting this waiver is all about. We are not even talking about whether American companies will be able to sell their products in Vietnam. That is not what rejecting this waiver would do.

What we are talking about today and what this debate is really all about is if we reject this waiver, we are preventing American businessmen who want to build factories in Vietnam, we are preventing them from an eligibility, from having eligibility for taxpayer-funded subsidies and loan guarantees. As my friend from Michigan stated, what we are really talking is OPIC and Export-Import bank loan guarantees and their credit.

What does that mean? That means the American people are going to be, through their tax dollars, subsidizing American businessmen for taking advantage of slave labor, meaning labor that cannot unionize, cannot demand its own wage, cannot quit. We are going to subsidize American businessmen to close their factories in the United States and set up their factories in Vietnam.

Does that make any sense? I do not think it makes sense to do that with a democratic country, much less to a country that is a dictatorship and stands for everything that America is supposed to be against.

Extending American tax dollars to subsidize or insure business with Communist Vietnam is bad business in and of itself and a betrayal of American values. Bad business, because of what? Well, why do these businessmen who want to set up these factories need these subsidized and guaranteed loans in the first place? I will tell you why they need that, because private banks will not give them the loans at the rates they need, because it is too risky for these American businessmen to set up their factories in Vietnam, because Vietnam is a corrupt dictatorship that nobody can count on. If it is bad business for American banks, should we put the taxpayers' money at risk? I do not think so.

It is not only bad business, but it is a betrayal of American values. The communist regime represents a repressive and corrupt dictatorship that is reprehensible and contrary to everything we believe in. They do not share our values and have not shown the slightest willingness to change.

We keep hearing, well, there has been progress. There has not been progress. There has been retrogression, just like we have seen in Communist China; retrogression. When we extend loan guarantees and we help out the regime, these gangsters do not say, oh, gee, how nice; maybe we should actually have some liberalization because they have been so nice to us.

No. They think we are a bunch of saps. They do not think we have the courage of our convictions. That is what is going on.

One last issue, the POW issue. There has been no progress on the POW issue. America spends $1 million every time there is a dig for remains of some American serviceman killed in Vietnam and left behind, $1 million. They are making a profit off of that. But they have done nothing but put obstacles in our way of finding out what happened to the 200 Americans who were reported and seen alive in captivity, but never came home after the war. Roadblock after roadblock.

I have made demands every year that we see the records of the prisons in which Americans were kept during the Vietnam War so that we can verify by those records that all of those people got home. Guess what? Those records have never been made available. Of course, the explanation is they were all destroyed by B–52 raids at the end of the war. Give me a break. They have not been forthcoming about POW's. They have, in fact, put roadblocks up in the way.

We should not reward this repressive regime by guaranteeing American businessmen's investments in their country. Of course, the American businessmen will make hundreds of millions of dollars, if not billions. The Vietnamese regime will benefit. But the Vietnamese people themselves will continue to suffer this repression, and the American taxpayer is going to be taken for a ride.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question, given the tragic history of the relationship in recent decades between the United States and Vietnam, that there would not be strong personal feelings.

□ 1030

We have to approach this legislation looking at it on the whole but, because of that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to serve notice that at the end of the debate, we intend to ask for a recorded vote so that all Members may express their own particular position on this issue.

As the gentleman from Michigan indicated, he has a concern beyond a bilateral trade agreement with the Government of the United States and Vietnam; and I want to indicate to him that I look forward to exploring with him and other Members of Congress the appropriateness of negotiating an incentive-based textile and apparel agreement with Vietnam, which I believe will begin to address the very concerns that the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER), my friend and colleague, indicated about the fact that if, in fact, there is going to be economic progress in Vietnam on the basis of American investment and involvement, that the Vietnamese people themselves also benefit.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), but prior to that, I ask unanimous consent to yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE) and that he control the balance of the time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to oppose the resolution disapproving the President's extension of the Jackson-Vanik waiver for Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, it has been 7 years since we ended our trade embargo and began the process of normalizing relations with Vietnam. Over these few years, good progress has been made. From its accounting of U.S. POWs and MIAs, to its movement to open trade with the world, to its progress on human rights, Vietnam has moved in the right direction. Granted, Vietnam certainly is not there yet, but Vietnam is moving in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, House Joint Resolution 55 is the wrong direction for us to take today. Who is hurt if we pass this resolution today? We are.

It is the wrong direction for U.S. farmers and manufacturers who will not have a level playing field when they compete with their European or Japanese counterparts in Vietnam. It is the wrong direction for our joint efforts with the Vietnamese to account for the last remains of our soldiers and to answer finally the questions of their loved ones here, and it is the wrong direction for our efforts to influence the Vietnam people, 65 percent of whom were not even born when the Vietnam War was being waged.

Let us not turn the clock back on Vietnam; let us continue to work with them and, in doing so, teach the youthful Vietnamese the value of democracy, the principles of capitalism, and the merits of a free and open society.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) mentioned that we would be taking a recorded vote on this; and part of that, he mentioned, is because of the emotions that many of the Members in this House feel over the Vietnam war and situation. I am one of those whom the Vietnam war, in many ways, bypassed, having been a very young child during that time; but I do know that my emotions are very strong on this because I do represent a group of people who are trying to reunify their families.

Probably, nobody else has as many cases open, over 1,000; and probably nobody in this Chamber has two Vietnamese-speaking people who deal only with the reunification of families in our home district office. Many of my colleagues do not get to see what I get to see or see the cases that come before us, the cases like my colleague from Michigan mentioned that there has been positive change with respect to emigration from Vietnam to the United States.

I will tell my colleagues that 5 years ago when I started as a Congresswoman, one had to get an exit visa from the Vietnamese government before the United States would clear you for entrance into the United States. That has changed. Now, you get cleared by the United States, and then you go to the Vietnamese government and you ask for an exit visa, an ability to leave their country. When you go to that point, if you are in Vietnam, it usually costs you a $2,000 or $3,000 bribe in order to get that exit visa.

The annual wage for the annual household income in Vietnam today is about $300 a year, which means that if one is being asked for a $2,000 or $3,000 bribe in order to get an exit visa in order to come to the United States after you have been approved by the United States, there is just not a way that math works out, which means we have lots of open cases and people who are not able to come over, even though we in the United States said, yes, they are eligible under the laws passed to come and be reunited with their families in the United States.

This is why this issue is so important, because this is giving financial instruments to people who want to do business in Vietnam because Vietnam's government has opened up and has helped us on the emigration issues, but they have not done that. They have made it, in some cases, more difficult.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman from California, both for her passion and leadership on this issue.

It is difficult, Mr. Speaker, to stand up against those veterans who have served in Vietnam, many of them who are pursuing this trade opportunity; but I think it is important to explain the extent of what the waiver actually means.

I am glad my colleagues who have debated this have already mentioned that we have been engaged in trade with Vietnam for a number of years. We are trading with Vietnam. On the basis of that trade, one would expect, and the American people would expect, that as we engage with Vietnam and we are not engaging in trade in Cuba, that we would see a decided and definitive

change; that those in this country who we represent from Vietnam who are seeking reunification of their family members, that the country and the leadership in Vietnam would be eager to cooperate and collaborate so that loving families could be reunited.

This waiver is to waive the emigration requirement, and that is where we are suffering. Those who want to leave Vietnam in freedom are not being allowed to do so. How much more trade and engagement do we need to be involved in to have the leadership of Vietnam see the light?

Since 1982, authorities have detained, without trial, an 82-year-old patriarch of the Unified Buddhist Church. He is in poor health and requires immediate medical care; I said 82 years old. Today we will greet Gao Zhan home from China with a medical condition, a young woman who should not have been held in China, yet we are doing trade there. But here there is an 82-year-old man in jail, and they refuse to release him.

So there are questions that are pending in Vietnam. Based upon their lack of sensitivity to human rights, their lack of sensitivity to religious freedom, and the fact that we are engaged with them, it seems that they are making no decided efforts to change.

I believe that this particular resolution is an appropriate one, sends a message. If we trade with people, they need to understand that we believe in human rights and religious freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 55. This resolution puts the principles of the United States first, and is required of this House in light of both the Jackson-Vanik amendment to the 1974 Trade Act and recent events affecting our diplomatic relationship with this developing nation.

Mr. Speaker, United States' law requires that permanent normal trade relations be granted to non-market economies that the president can certify have free emigration. Absent this showing, the President can waive the provisions of the amendment if doing so will promote emigration in the future.

Mr. Speaker, last year the U.S. signed a sweeping bilateral trade agreement with Vietnam. The World Bank estimates that this would increase U.S. imports from Vietnam $800 million from last year—a gain of 60%. The year 2000 trade imbalance with Vietnam was $496.9 million.

Mr. Speaker, the year 2000 review of human rights in Vietnam by the State Department noted that Vietnam has made improvements in its human rights record. Despite these improvements, the State Department still rated Vietnam as ''poor'' overall on human rights.

The State Department noted that the Vietnam Government continues to repress basic political freedoms, is intolerant of dissenting viewpoints, and selectively represses the religious rights of its citizens.

The Speaker last week I voted for the revocation of China's waiver authority under the 1974 Trade Act. In that case we were faced with a formerly hostile nation, a severe trade imbalance, and a nation unwilling to accept either the winds of change or the obligations of international citizenship.

In the instant case, Mr. Speaker, we have a similar situation. A formerly hostile nation with a large trade surplus and a questionable human rights record is up for trade waiver authority review. Although I rise in favor of this resolution, I do not seek to disparage the gains Vietnam has made in re-engaging the world. I seek a consistent balance between our trade priorities and the principles we use to steer this nation. We cannot continue to hold ourselves out as a nation of laws and turn our back on our convictions at every economic opportunity. We also need a faster response to our MIA's so their families can have closure.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution because our trade policy must be balanced with a sense of moral leadership. We should not hold our trade relationship over Vietnam, nor should we allow globalization to commit us to policies against our best sense as a nation. Vietnam has done much, but it can do more. Other countries may turn a blind eye to issues such as the rights of workers and the environment, but we are not other nations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members to vote in favor of H.J. Res. 55, disapproving trade waiver authority with respect to Vietnam. It is time to begin thinking about what trade should mean; huge deficits for the U.S. for the sake of a few reforms is not the answer.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the very distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), who has been deeply involved in this issue.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I urge my colleagues to oppose the resolution before us today.

This vote really is about how we best can achieve change in Vietnam. I believe the record stands for itself. We have achieved progress by engagement, by encouraging Vietnamese cooperation on important issues, such as human rights and political economic reform.

I can speak personally about this progress. I have been to Vietnam and seen the work of the Joint Task Force-Full Accounting, our military presence in Vietnam tasked with looking into the issue of missing servicemen and women. I have visited these young people and they are among the best and well-motivated group of soldiers I have ever met. Every day, from the searches of the jungle battle sites to the excavation of crash sites on precarious mountain summits, they put themselves in harm's way to recover our missing. In talking with them, it was clear to me that they were performing a mission that they truly believed in.

On April 7 of this year, the danger became all too real. On that day, seven American members of the Joint Task Force, along with nine Vietnamese, lost their lives in a helicopter crash as they were on their way to a recovery mission. The tragedy was a huge blow to the recovery efforts, as we lost both Americans and Vietnamese who had been deeply involved in finding our missing. We should remember our deceased as American heroes who gave their lives in pursuit of a mission they believed was a high honor and sacred duty.

If we pass this resolution of disapproval, we will be hindering that mission. The only way we can carry out this mission is to effectively have a presence in Vietnam, and to maintain the presence means reciprocating on the promises that we have made to reward the Vietnamese cooperation. Passing this resolution would definitely send the wrong signal to Vietnam, not to mention the brave American men and women who are still searching in the rice paddies and mountains of Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, this is the 4th year that this House will vote on a resolution of disapproval. Since we first voted on this, the House has, each time, with growing and overwhelming support, voted down the resolution. Let us stay the course. Let us support our Joint Task Force-Full Accounting. Let us support our nation's bipartisan policy which has only furthered our goals toward a more open and cooperative Vietnam. Please vote against the resolution.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

(Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 55, Disapproving the Extension of Immigration Waiver Authority to Vietnam.

The resolution on the House floor today addresses the issue of whether the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam allows free and open emigration for its citizens. In 1999, President Clinton granted Vietnam a waiver of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment on this condition. Unfortunately, little improvement has been made since.

Boat People, SOS, an organization headquartered in my district, informed me that the official Communist government in Vietnam is still riddled by corruption. Additionally, the government continues to export thousands of political prisoners and former U.S. Government employees from participating in the U.S. refugee programs. Applicants, in some cases, are forced to pay $1,000 or more in bribes to gain access to these programs; this in a country where the average annual salary is $250.

The corruption that exists in the Vietnamese Communist government also undermines U.S. exchange programs. Our programs offer exceptional Vietnamese students the opportunity to study in the United States. However, the Vietnamese government excludes those students whose parents are not members of the Communist cadre. Thus, many qualified students are denied the opportunity to study in the U.S. exchange programs simply because their parents are not card-carrying members of the Communist

party. This bias is one of many examples of the apartheid system that the government has implemented to punish those who do not agree with their ideology.

On the human rights front, the government has released some political prisoners, but many more individuals, including religious leaders, remain imprisoned indefinitely. Meanwhile, the government continues to arrest others who dare to speak out against them.

The Vietnamese Communist government simply does not tolerate basic civil liberties, such as the right to free speech, the right to freely exercise one's religion, and the right to peaceably assemble. Reports reveal that the Vietnamese police have forced many religious groups who renounce their beliefs or face the threat of imprisonment, beatings, or torture. When I visited Vietnam in 1998, a Catholic priest told me the Communist government does not even allow him to wear his vestments in public.

Even more egregious is the government's persecution of the Hmong. Over 10,000 of them have had to flee their ancestral lands in the north, traveling 800 miles in the south central highlands in Dak Lak Province because of government harassment and persecution. Many of them were arrested as ''illegal migrants'' or charged with practicing and ''illegal religion'' as part of the government crackdown on Hmong Christians.

Mr. Speaker, I urge approval of the resolution.

While the Vietnamese government may claim to have made strides, I would like to share with you evidence to the contrary. For example, four prominent individuals are presently imprisoned or under house arrest for practicing their religions. They are: Venerable Thich Huyen Quang, Patriarch of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam; the Venerable Thich Quang Do; Father Nguyen Van Ly; and Mr. Le Quang Liem of the banned Hoa Hoa Buddhish Church.

In addition, Dr. Nguyen Dan Que a prominent prisoner of conscience who was released in late 1998, remains under house arrest in Saigon; while Professor Doan Viet Hoat and Mr. Le Chi Thien former prisoners of conscience who had been imprisoned for over 20 years for promoting democratic ideals, were forced to leave Vietnam as a condition of their release.

Additionally, since the fall of Saigon, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has been systematically abusing the rights of the indigenous Montagnard peoples of Vietnam's central highland. There have been reports of summary executions, mysterious disappearances, arbitrary arrests, interrogations, beatings, torture, and forcible relocations of the Montagnard people from their traditional homes.

In 1999, the Vietnamese Communist Government ordered and carried out the destruction of a sacred religious site of the Khmer Krom in the former city of Saigon. They destroyed the Pali School building, and desecrated the Bodhi Tree where the remains of Khmer Krom soldiers—who fought bravely with the U.S. Special Forces during the war—are buried. To this day, the Khmer Krom continue to be harassed and persecuted for their role in the conflict.

In February of this year, thousands of Christian Montagnards peacefully demonstrated in the three of the four Central Highland provinces. In response, the Vietnamese Communist Government deployed military forces into the area, cutting off telephone communications, banning diplomatic international organizations from visiting the region, and terrorizing the Montagnard population. There have also been numerous reports of jungle executions. The situation in the highlands has deteriorated to the extent that many Montagnards are now fleeing into Cambodia. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Refuge International, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have all called for urgent action to protect them.

Mr. Speaker, in light of these offenses, I believe H.J. Res. 55 is an important bill that deserves the support of every Member, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of this resolution.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE).

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, shortly after the last election in November of last year, I traveled to Hanoi. I spent about a week there on a volunteer surgical mission. I found the people to be friendly and courteous. Make no mistake, though: the Communist government is not friendly to freedom. There is very little freedom of speech. There was a lot of soccer on TV, but there was not much discussion, and as the gentleman from Virginia just pointed out, the government has done bad things.

The question is, how do we affect a change in that? I oppose this resolution because I think the communication between Americans doing business in Vietnam brings a fresh perspective and information to the people of Vietnam.

□ 1045

I think that trade will actually help bring down that Communist government and that the communications between Americans doing business in Vietnam will actually end it. And the opening up of the communication that is necessary for that shows the Vietnamese what a true democracy is like.

There were lots and lots of questions that we all fielded on that surgical mission about what it is like to live in a democracy, and that is very useful. So cultural interchanges, professional interchanges, and, I think, business interchanges will actually help promote the type of democratic changes that we all want to see. For that reason, I oppose this resolution. I think we should continue trade with Vietnam just like we are doing with China.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

A comment to the good doctor. This is not a trade vote. The bilateral trade agreement I know is going through the Committee on Ways and Means, and we can discuss the issues of trade and whether working with the people of Vietnam will allow for more open issues with respect to human rights and other things that I think we should be concerned about as a Nation. But this really is about does Vietnam allow its people to emigrate to the United States, does it work with us on issuing visas. And if it does a good job with that, we, in return, allow them, allow our business people to have these government programs that allow for financing and doing business in that country. That is the real issue.

Again, I believe that the government of Vietnam has not been forthright in its policies of emigration. Currently, religious persecution, human rights violations, economic restrictions, we know that they all still exist in Vietnam. And one does not have to go to Vietnam to see it. We hear it, we read it in reports that come back, reports from the United States Department of State as well as witnesses that we have had here, dialogue with our colleagues here. And the dialogue on Vietnam reveals the government still pursues a policy of repressing free expression and religious choice.

Those that oppose the government's mandates continue to be the target of mental and economic terrorism, and the administrative detainment of political and religious leaders who disagree with that Communist party platform still occurs. The U.S. State Department's 2000 Country Report on Vietnam states that the government's human rights record in Vietnam remains poor. It says that there are serious problems regarding religious freedom and the advancement of human rights.

In April of this year, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, a body that was created by this Congress in 1998 to monitor religious freedom in other countries, recommended that we withhold our support for most International Monetary Fund and World Bank loans to that government of Vietnam until it agrees to make substantial improvements in the protection of religious freedom. Our own body that we created has told us in a report just this past April that we should not be doing these types of financing mechanisms for that government until it cleans up its act.

Contrary to the Vietnamese government's pretense that it has no political or religious prisoners, many Vietnamese continue to languish in prisons because of their beliefs. The detention of these religious leaders, whether or not they tell us where they are or whether they put them under house arrest and do not let them leave their homes, is persecution. Police arbitrarily arrest and detain citizens for reasons including the peaceful expression of political and religious views and sometimes even beat them when they are arrested.

The judiciary is not independent. The government denies citizens the right to fair trials. The government continues

to grossly violate human rights by incarcerating prisoners of conscience. Pro-democracy activists, scholars, and poets are still in prison for crimes such as using freedom and democracy to ''injure the national unity.'' Vietnam continues to deny freedom of religion.

Mr. Speaker, this past year, I traveled to Vietnam; and I had the opportunity to meet with four of the six leading dissidents in Vietnam for human rights and for advocation of collective bargaining in the workplace, Professor Nguyen Thanh Giang, who used to be a member of the Communist party and then was kicked out because he did not support what this government is doing with respect to religious freedom and basic human rights; Mr. Pham Que Duong; and Mr. Hoang Minh Chinh. I met with all of them, and we discussed this whole issue of trade. The issue is that human rights violations continue, and there has been no movement.

Our reports say time after time that there is no movement on human rights. Even our own Ambassador, Pete Peterson, when he was out in my district in front of the Vietnamese community, when he was pressed for details about what positive things had happened in human rights, could not come up with one answer, at least not when he was in front of people who understand and have their families back there.

I also visited with the Most Venerable Thich Quang Do, someone I nominated to win the Nobel Peace Prize. There are 28 of my colleagues in this House who also signed that letter asking for that. Right now he is under arrest. It is not the first time in his life; it probably will not be the last time in his life. But it simply happens over and over and it does not change. If an individual is with the Buddhists, and they do not like that, then they have problems. If someone is with the Catholic faith, and they do not like what that individual is doing, if they are going out to help flood victims, they are put under house arrest. Right now, they have Father Ly under persecution simply because he went to try to help flood victims in the Delta area.

Nevertheless, Vietnam continues over and over to insist it has no political or religious prisoners. I urge my colleagues to vote for this resolution. It is time we became aware of what is really happening in Vietnam.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I rise in opposition to this resolution and urge Members to continue the MFN status for Vietnam, as we have done in the past with an overwhelming and bipartisan majority.

I, like many Members of Congress, have had an opportunity to travel to Vietnam and to visit with governmental leaders and with private citizens there, and with workers and others that are a part of that community, and with our former ambassador, Pete Peterson, who has been one of the most passionate supporters of improved political and economic relations with Vietnam. He has devoted countless hours to improving these relationships and to addressing the key issues that are before us today, and I think we ought to salute his tenure as our first ambassador to Hanoi.

I think we have to understand that, in fact, progress has been made. Many of my colleagues have raised a number of troubling subjects to us that I think we have to continue to bear down on and understand that problems do exist, but I think also in my discussions with Ambassador Peterson and with people in Vietnam, improvements, in fact, I believe, have been made. Enough? No, not at all. Do we need further progress? Clearly we do on the issues of emigration.

I also have had an opportunity to witness the Joint Task Force's efforts to locate and identify and to recover the remains of our many missing soldiers and airmen and see this extraordinary effort that is taking place. We are, hopefully, building a new and a positive relationship with Vietnam, which is the 12th largest population in the world and plays a key role in political and economic security in Southeast Asia.

Last year, Congress enacted legislation that I helped write creating a program to promote higher education exchanges between our countries. We should continue to build on these efforts because they are in the best interests of both nations. At the same time, we must be very clear, and many of our colleagues have touched upon these subjects here today, we must continue to work with this government and to include this government to assure the rights of all working people to form independent unions and engage in collective bargaining as provided under the rules of the International Labor Organization.

Vietnam clearly must accelerate its policies to ensure freedom of religion and political expression. We need to continue to work with several local and international environmental organizations to reduce the water pollution and protect the threatened species and generally ensure that economic development is not undertaken at the expense of the Nation's natural resources, which not only affects Vietnam but the entire region.

Free trade unionism, improved environmental policies, expanded political religious rights for all Vietnamese. These are all legitimate factors for securing improved and lasting trade relations with the United States and other democracies, and we should continue to work for those in Vietnam. But we must understand that this is a step that allows us to continue to engage with the Vietnamese on these matters, and we also know that there are other instruments that are waiting in terms of trade agreements, bilateral agreements, and, obviously, at some point, Vietnam's seeking, down the road, to engage with the WTO. Clearly, these thresholds must be continued to be raised as we grant those other relations.

So I think it is incumbent upon all of us to understand here and in Vietnam that this debate is about an evolving relationship, not about an acceptance of the status quo that we have today.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), one of the most distinguished foreign policy leaders or perhaps the most distinguished foreign policy leader in the House of Representatives and former chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for his kind introduction, and I am pleased to rise in strong support of H.J. Res. 55, resolution disapproving the extension of the waiver authority contained in section 402(c) of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to Vietnam. I commend my good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER), for his continual oversight of Vietnam and for introducing this important initiative.

Amnesty International has reported to us that the government of Vietnam continues to prevent independent human rights monitors from visiting Vietnam, and dozens of prisoners of conscience remained in prison and have remained there throughout the year 2000, and some are still in prison. Restrictions on released prisoners continue to be harsh. Political dissidents, independent labor leaders, and religious critics of the government have been subjected to imprisonment, to beatings, to torture, to surveillance, harassment, and denial of basic freedoms, including the freedom of expression.

In September, five members of the Hoa Hao Buddhist Church, and we met some of them in our committee just the other day, were sentenced to between 1 and 3 years imprisonment on trumped-up charges, where they still remain.

The State Department points out that the government of Vietnam prohibits independent political labor and social organizations. Such organizations exist only under government control. The Vietnamese government also restricts freedom of religion and significantly restricts the operation of religious organizations other than those entities that have been approved by the State. Dissident groups of Buddhists, Hoa Hao, and Protestants, in particular, face harassment by authorities.

Accordingly, we should not be rewarding the Vietnamese Communist dictatorship with trade benefits at this time. It is an insult to the thousands of

American and Vietnamese men and women who were wounded or died in the war fighting for democracy, the rule of law, and for human rights.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to fully support this resolution.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Seattle, Washington (Ms. DUNN), who graciously permitted the transfer of Boeing's headquarters to my home town of Chicago.

Ms. DUNN. I thank our gracious chairman for yielding me this time and thereby allowing me the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this joint resolution to disapprove normal trade relations with Vietnam. I believe that we need to continue our policy of economic engagement with Vietnam.

□ 1100

President Clinton already signed a historic bilateral agreement that will require Vietnam to open its markets, to reduce tariffs, to ease barriers to our products in the United States and our services.

I am very pleased that the Committee on Ways and Means will be considering this agreement today in committee.

Twenty-six years after the end of the war, many of us are still haunted by Vietnam. It touched my generation. I saw boys go away from college and from our communities to fight in Vietnam; and we also saw our colleague, SAM JOHNSON, and former ambassador to Vietnam, Pete Peterson, our good friends, people we care about, who served our Nation honorably in Vietnam and made terrible sacrifices as prisoners of war. But I believe we can honor their service while still strengthening our economic relations with Vietnam.

Renewing normal trade relations does not diminish our commitment to address POW/MIA issues. I am from Seattle, and we have a large Asian/Vietnamese community. Many have become citizens, contributing to our communities. I do not think establishing normal trade relations with Vietnam diminishes the commitment that we all believe in our communities and in this Congress to POW/MIA issues, to human rights issues, and to issues of religious liberty.

Trade is an effective tool to pressure Vietnam to make economic and social reforms. I ask my colleagues today to oppose this bill and to support trade with Vietnam.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT).

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that really is a very central issue that we ought to be discussing on many levels. That is the question of what relationship we are going to have with the rest of the world.

I am one of those people who was involved in the Vietnam War, not in-country, but I saw what happened; and there are lots of reasons why we ought to keep them isolated. Yesterday we had an argument here about Cuba. We have tried to isolate them. We have isolated them for 50 years. It has not done any good. We tried it with China. It did not do any good. We finally opened up to them.

Now we have the Vietnamese. Let us isolate them, and somehow they will change. It will not do any good. The only way we are going to get anything done is when we begin to embrace and involve yourself with them. Nobody who is going to vote against this resolution is in agreement with communism. We do not agree with what the Vietnamese government is doing, but we have a difference of opinion about how we involve ourselves in bringing about that change.

My colleagues talk about the terrible Communist government and all these awful things. The next issue we are going to do on the floor here, sort of an irony, is that we are going to come out and pass a martial law rule in the House of Representatives.

The rules of the House are to protect the minority, and we do not have any problem standing up here and running over the minorities, and then we stand back and say, those awful people over there in that country who run over those minorities. So we have to be careful about being consistent.

If we do not want to deal with China, I can understand that; and there were some of my colleagues who are very consistent. They do not want to deal with China. They do not want to deal with Vietnam. They do not want to deal with Cuba. Those people I can understand. But the ones who pick and choose really need to do some thinking.

Why are we having this martial law in the next issue up here? The reason we are having it is because the leadership of the House wants to deal with a crisis. There is a real crisis out there. They have had a hurricaine in Texas. So we have to come out here and ram through help for people in Texas.

The White House says we should not do anything for the Indians. A hundred thousand houses flattened. Thirty thousand people killed. The United States can give $5 million to India, and that is fine.

I heard one of my colleagues say, we cannot let down the Montagnards. They were our allies. What about the people in El Salvador who we dragged through a whole war? Now they have an earthquake, the worst earthquake in the history of El Salvador, and the White House says, no, we are not going to help these El Salvadorans. They are living in the wrong place. They should have moved to Texas or Florida or somewhere we would help them.

The question of how we are going to relate and how we are going to get our people into these countries and how we are going to bring about change is a very complicated one.

I was in China when China was very tight, back in 1977. I have seen enormous changes. Has it gone far enough? No, it has not. Has Vietnam changed? Yes. Far enough? No. But the question is, at this point should we step back and say these folks are not doing it our way enough so we are not going to deal with them?

My view is nothing works that way. That is why I will vote to oppose this resolution. Not because I endorse communism or anything about that regime, but because we will never bring about any change simply by forcing, trying unilaterally for the United States to economically squeeze them into our mold. They will get there because the forces that we have are very powerful, and they will bring it about.

Vote against this kind of resolution.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), who knows this issue is mainly about subsidizing American businessmen for building factories in Vietnam.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, let us not kid ourselves. The government of Vietnam is not making progress on human rights. On the contrary, in recent months the government has substantially increased the frequency and the severity of its human rights violations and just recently, beginning in late winter, began a new and very cruel crackdown on the Montagnards, torturing, murdering, cordoning off. Mr. Speaker, this is the reality on the ground in Vietnam.

Let me also point out to my colleagues that there is no real religious freedom allowed by the government of Vietnam. The Unified Buddhist Church, the largest religious denomination in the country, has been declared illegal by the government, and over the last 25 years its clergy have often been imprisoned and subjected to other forms of persecution.

The patriarch of the Unified Buddhist Church, 83-year-old Thich Huyen Quang, has been detained for 21 years in a ruined temple, an isolated area in central Vietnam. Most Venerable Thich Quang Do, the executive president of the Unified Buddhist Church, has been in detention for many years and was recently rearrested when he sought medical care for Thich Huyen Quang.

The Hoa Hao Buddhist Church has also been under severe repression. According to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, ''this organization is made up of almost entirely,'' that is to say, the governing body of it, ''of members of the Communist party,'' and they have not recognized and have not been recognized by the majority of the Hoa Haos.

Let me just say, recently Father Ly gave testimony to the U.S. Commission

on Religious Freedom. We know what happened when he gave that testimony, and it was written testimony. He did not come here and present it. He, too, was arrested by the government of Vietnam and is being held.

So Catholic priests in Vietnam who speak out against religious persecution, sorry, they are going to be arrested and persecuted. That is the government that we are subsidizing.

Mr. Speaker, we have to take the side of human rights and the oppressed, and not stand with the oppressor. Let us see some real progress before we lavish trade on the government of Vietnam.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST).

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I served in Vietnam as a young marine. I met many extraordinary, wonderful people in Vietnam. I have visited Vietnam as a Member of Congress. I have had many, many conversations with Pete Peterson, the distinguished ambassador to Vietnam. My conclusion is this: Those Vietnamese, young and old, who are being persecuted religiously, basic human rights violations, torture, et cetera, are painfully, patiently waiting the return of the Americans to once again, but in a much different way, and perhaps much more effective, bring the opportunity for freedom to Vietnam to prevail.

Mr. Speaker, communism cannot exist against a tidal wave of hope, knowledge and a clear avenue of opportunity. The Jackson-Vanik waiver offers a portion of that avenue to open up. I urge a ''no'' vote on this opposition to Jackson-Vanik.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, who will close?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY). The Chair will recognize for closing speeches in the reverse order of the original allocations. Thus, Members should expect to close out their time in the following sequence: the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE). The time of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) has expired.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM).

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, this is an emotional issue for many of us. I have seen a lot of my friends die in Vietnam, as has my friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), who was a POW for six and a half years. Even we have different feelings on this particular issue, and it is hard.

I look, and people outside the United States could look, and point out the bad things about the United States. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) did about Vietnam.

Look at a young African American that was drug down a country road, drug to his death. Look at the inequities to minorities in our judicial system sometimes. I acknowledge those and say we want to trade with the United States. But there is so much good. Most of the people who live in Vietnam today were not alive during the war.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) asked me to go to Vietnam a couple of years ago and raise a flag over Ho Chi Minh City. I told him, no, I do not go on CODELS; and it would be too hard for me to go back. But I did go. I am glad I did.

Mr. Speaker, if you walk on the streets of Vietnam today, those people welcome Americans openhandedly. They want a chance, much like the people in Tiananmen Square did. I met the prime minister, and I asked him, why will you not get involved in trade that President Clinton is trying to get you involved in?

He said, Congressman, I am a Communist. If those people have things, I will be out of business as a Communist.

I said, trade is good. If we look at it that way, there is no movement with Saddam Hussein. There is no movement in Cuba with Fidel Castro, but there is in Vietnam.

Yes, there are a lot of pitfalls with this. I have a constituent that was arrested in Vietnam. I ask my colleagues to think about if we have a country like Vietnam that definitely are Communists, but they have made movement like the gentleman from Washington stated, I think we ought to support that trade and deny this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE) have any further speakers?

Mr. CRANE. No, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) is recognized for his closing.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to myself to close.

Mr. Speaker, what are we debating here? Let us once again be reminded. Rejecting this waiver means one thing in policy. One policy decision is being made today, and that is whether or not we are going to subsidize American businessmen, take taxpayer dollars and guarantee the loans that they are getting and give them a lower rate of interest in order to set up factories in a Communist country, in Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think that is a good idea for Democratic countries, and it certainly is not a good idea for dictatorships like Vietnam. Vietnam does not deserve a subsidy for American businessmen to set up factories, closing their factories in the United States, so these businessmen can take advantage of the slave labor in Vietnam. They do not deserve it.

As we have heard, Pete Peterson, one of our former colleagues, a former POW, could not come up with one example of where Vietnam was progressing in the right direction after all of these years of engagement.

We are not talking about trade. We are not talking about isolating Vietnam. We are talking about subsidizing businessmen to set up factories there. That is immoral as long as that country is such a dictatorship.

Let me add, this same government continues to stonewall us on the POW issue. Although they let us dig, we can dig, and they get millions of dollars for letting us dig in Vietnam for the bones of the 200 Americans left that we knew were in captivity at one point in Vietnam. They have put roadblock after roadblock which continues to prevent us from finding out what happened to those last 200 American POWs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support my reject of the Jackson-Vanik waiver for this dictatorship in Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD a letter addressed to me.

QUINN EMANUEL LOS ANGELES,
Los Angeles, CA, July 17, 2001.

Re U.S.-Vietnam Trade Agreement.

Hon. DAN ROHRABACHER,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ROHRABACHER: I represent Mr. Dac Vi Hoang, a former Vietnamese businessman who fled Vietnam recently to escape persecution. I am writing to you to offer the testimony of Mr. Hoang regarding the political corruption and economic repression that stifle free enterprise in Vietnam.

Mr. Hoang was a prominent Vietnamese entrepreneur who owned Thanh My, Inc., an international exporter of lacquerware. Thanh My, Inc. enjoyed astounding success as a private corporation in the midst of a Communist regime, with annual sales of U.S. $3 million and 400 employees. Than My was internationally recognized as the first private corporation in Vietnam to receive permission to sell its shares to a foreign entity (although that permission was eventually revoked by the Vietnamese government).

Mr. Hoang accomplished this success despite having spent five years in a Vietnamese re-education camp because of his participation as an intelligence officer in the South Vietnamese army and cooperation with American armed forces during the Vietnam War. Mr. Hoang was severely tortured, both mentally and physically, while he underwent his ''re-education.''

The prominence Mr. Hoang achieved motivated him to advocate on behalf of private enterprise in Vietnam. In so doing, he repeatedly criticized, both privately and publicly, the repression of private enterprise and the economic policies of the Vietnamese government. This activity led to warnings, threats, and surveillance by the Vietnamese government. Eventually, Mr. Hoang received information that his arrest was imminent.

Mr. Hoang and his immediate family fled to the United States soon thereafter and they currently are seeking political asylum before the United States Immigration Court in Los Angeles. Mr. Hoang was one of the wealthiest people in Vietnam, and now he has nothing except the prospect of freedom in this Country. The hearing on his case was originally scheduled for July 13, 2001, but was continued until January 20, 2002 at the request of the I.N.S.

Attached is Mr. Hoang's declaration to the U.S. Immigration Court and a newspaper article that describes his plight. Mr. Hoang has continued to criticize the Communist regime in Vietnam since his arrival in this Country,

and his comments have been widely broadcast in the media. Mr. Hoang was recently interviewed by Radio Free Asia, which broadcasts in Vietnam. If Mr. Hoang's testimony is relevant to the U.S.-Vietnam trade agreement ratification process, please do not hesitate to contact me at the telephone number listed above, or via e-mail at slr@quinnemanuel.com.

Respectfully yours,

SANDRA L. RIERSON.

□ 1115

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, Vietnam represents another challenge, how we integrate a command economy and a command society into the rule of law. It needs the right combination of engagement and pressure. I do not think trade is a magic wand. It is more than about market access. It is about labor market issues. It is about environmental issues. It is about a widened nature of issues. It is not an either/or proposition. We need to move forward on these issues, not backwards.

To vote ''yes'' on this is to vote to move backwards. I think it would be a mistake. I urge a ''no'' vote.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. I rise in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 55 and in support of extending Vietnam's Jackson-Vanik waiver. Failure to extend the waiver here at the threshold of congressional consideration of the U.S.-Vietnam bilateral trade agreement would send terribly mixed diplomatic signals and would undermine the great economic reforms now gaining momentum in Vietnam.

On emigration, the central issue for the Jackson-Vanik waiver, more than 500,000 Vietnamese citizens have entered the United States under the orderly departure program in the past 10 to 15 years. As a result of steps taken by Vietnam to streamline its emigration process, all but 73 of the nearly 21,000 individuals who have applied for consideration under the Resettlement Opportunity for Vietnamese Returnees program have been cleared for interview.

Another critical issue in our bilateral relationship with Vietnam continues to be the fullest possible accounting of U.S. MIAs. As of last week, the fate has been determined for all but 41 of the so-called ''last known-alive'' cases. Future progress in terms of the ability of U.S. personnel to conduct excavations, interview eyewitnesses and examine archival items is dependent upon continued cooperation by the Vietnamese.

The effect of the Jackson-Vanik waiver at this time is quite limited, enabling U.S. exporters doing business in Vietnam to have access to U.S. trade financing programs provided that Vietnam meets the relevant program criteria. Nevertheless, the significance of Vietnam's Jackson-Vanik waiver is that it permits us to stay engaged with Vietnam and to pursue further reforms on the full range of issues on the bilateral agenda.

Extending Vietnam's waiver will give reformers within the government much-needed support to continue economic reforms. Therefore, I urge a ''no'' vote on H.J. Res. 55.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to House Joint Resolution 55, which would deny Normal Trade Relations (NTR) with Vietnam, the world's 13th largest nation with a population of 80 million people. I urge our colleagues to vote against the measure.

Mr. Speaker, the decision before us is much like the debate we had recently over trade relations with China. In the case of Vietnam, as with China, many opponents of NTR focus on the serious human rights violations committed by the Communist government. These are valid and compelling criticisms, as in Vietnam the practice of religion is routinely restricted and political freedom is brutally suppressed, especially public dissent.

However, these human rights abuses, as well as our concerns over minimum labor standards and environmental protection, will not be addressed by America continuing to turn its back to Vietnam.

I believe engaging with Vietnam by support of Normal Trade Relations and the Bilateral Trade Agreement will not only create new and fair business opportunities for America but, more importantly, will bring about significant political and social progress in Vietnam. Committing the Vietnamese Government to enact market-oriented reforms will enhance respect for the rule of law, ultimately leading to a more democratic society that respects and protects the rights of its citizens. Additionally, this will lay the foundation for Vietnam's eventual entry into the World Trade Organization, further reinforcing Vietnam's obligation and duty to conduct itself as a civilized and responsible member of the international community.

In supporting Normal Trade Relations for China last week, Mr. Speaker, I found particularly persuasive and enlightening the voices of those Chinese dissidents who have been persecuted and imprisoned for years—individuals who are among China's harshest and most vocal critics.

Prominent Chinese democracy activists such as Bao Tong, Xie Wanjun, Ren Wanding, Dai Qing, Zhou Litai and Wang Dan have urged the United States to extend China Normal Trade Relations as it would hasten China's entry into the WTO, forcing China's adherence to international standards of conduct and respect for the rule of law. Moreover, they argue that closer economic relations between the U.S. and China allows America to more effectively monitor human rights and push for political reforms in China.

Mr. Speaker, the wisdom of these courageous Chinese dissidents also applies in the case of Vietnam.

For a year, Hanoi's leaders have delayed signing the Bilateral Trade Agreement with us precisely because they fear economic reform and U.S. engagement will undermine the socialist foundation and monopoly on power of their Communist regime.

Mr. Speaker, the Communist leadership in Hanoi is right to be fearful. Normalizing trade relations between our nations will allow America to engage—promoting democracy and spurring political, social and human rights progress in Vietnam that in the long-run cannot be controlled nor stopped. I strongly urge our colleagues to engage the people of Vietnam, and oppose the legislation before us.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises in opposition to the H.J. Res. 55, which would disapprove the Bush Administration's extension of the waiver of Jackson-Vanik trade restrictions on Vietnam. Therefore, in voicing this opposition to the resolution, it is important for us to recognize what the Jackson-Vanik waiver does and does not do.

By law, the underlying issue here is about emigration. Based on Vietnam's record of progress on emigration and its continued cooperation on U.S. refugee programs over the past year, renewal of the Jackson-Vanik waiver will continue to promote greater freedom of emigration. Disapproval would, undoubtedly, result in the opposite.

The Jackson-Vanik waiver also symbolizes our interest in further developing relations with Vietnam. Having lifted the trade embargo and established diplomatic relations five years ago, the United States has tried to work with Vietnam to normalize incrementally our bilateral political, economic and consular relationship. This is in America's own short-term and long-term national interest. It builds on Vietnam's own policy of political and economic re-integration into the world. This will be a lengthy and challenging process. However, now is not the time to reverse course on gradually normalizing our relations with Vietnam.

Vietnam now continues to cooperate fully with our priority efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting of American POW–MIAs. The Jackson-Vanik waiver contributes to this process.

The Jackson-Vanik waiver certainly does not constitute an endorsement of the Communist regime in Hanoi. We cannot approve of a regime that places severe restrictions on basic freedoms, including the right to organize political parties, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion. On many occasions, with this Member's support, this body passed resolutions condemning just such violations of civil and human rights.

The Jackson-Vanik waiver does not provide Vietnam with any new trade benefits, including Normal Trade Relations (NTR) status. With the Jackson-Vanik waiver, the United States has been able to successfully negotiate and sign a new bilateral commercial trade agreement with Vietnam. Congress will have an opportunity to decide in the future whether to approve it or not and whether to grant NTR to Vietnam. But, that is a separate process. The renewal of the Jackson-Vanik waiver only keeps this process going—nothing more.

Also it is important to note that the renewal of the Jackson-Vanik waiver does not aututomatically make American exports to Vietnam eligible for possible coverage by U.S. trade financing programs. The waiver only allows American exports to Vietnam to be eligible for such coverage.

Mr. Speaker, the Vietnam War is over and we have embarked on a new, though cautious and expanding, relationship with Vietnam. Now is not the time to reverse course. Accordingly, this Member urges a ''no'' vote on the resolution of disapproval.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution and urge my colleagues to uphold the current Jackson-Vanik waiver.

The Jackson-Vanik provision of the 1974 Trade Act was intended to encourage communist countries to relax their restrictive emigration policies.

The Jackson-Vanik waiver specifically granted the President the power to waive the restrictions on U.S. government credits or investment guarantees to communist countries if the waiver would help promote significant progress toward relaxing emigration controls.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Scoop Jackson was a staunch anti-communist. Yet, he was willing to consider to incentives to encourage the Soviet Union to relax its emigration policy.

In 1998, Charles Vanik, former Member and co-author of the Jackson-Vanik provision, sent me a letter expressing his strong opposition to the motion to disapprove trade credits for Vietnam and urged the Congress to uphold the current waiver.

Vietnam is experiencing a new era, driven by a population where 65 percent of its citizens were born after the war. Vietnam today welcomes U.S. trade and economic investment.

The Vietnamese Government has made significant progress in meeting the emigration criteria in the Jackson-Vanik amendment. Through a policy of engagement and U.S. business investment, Vietnam has improved its emigration policies, cooperated on U.S. refugee programs, and worked with the United States on achieving the fullest possible accounting of POW/MIAs from the Vietnam War.

Despite problems of corruption and government repression, there is reason to believe that our presence in Vietnam can improve the situation and encourage its government to become more open, respect human rights and follow the rule of law.

The economic incentives provided in Jackson-Vanik are all one-sided favoring U.S. firms doing business in Vietnam. I am among many of my colleagues who support approval of the U.S.-Vietnam Bilateral Trade Agreement that will be marked up by the Ways and Means Committee later today. This bilateral agreement will advance U.S. economic interests and further integrate Vietnam into the global economy.

Recently departed U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam, Pete Peterson, our esteemed former colleague and former POW, has been one of our nation's strongest advocates for expanding trade with Vietnam. Renewing the Jackson-Vanik waiver will increase market access for U.S. goods and services in the 12th most populous country in the world.

Disapproval of this waiver will only discourage U.S. businesses from operating in Vietnam, arm Soviet-style hardliners with the pretext to clamp down on what economic and social freedoms the Vietnamese people now experience, and eliminate what opportunity we have to influence Vietnam in the future.

Mr. Speaker, we have debated and soundly rejected similar disapproval resolutions in past years. I urge my colleagues to do the same today and uphold the presidential waiver of the Jackson-Vanik requirements.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, July 25, 2001, the joint resolution is considered as having been read for amendment, and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this vote on the passage of House Joint Resolution 55 will be followed by a vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1954, the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act extension.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 91, nays 324, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 275]

YEAS—91

Aderholt
Andrews
Baca
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Bartlett
Barton
Berry
Bonilla
Bonior
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Burton
Buyer
Chabot
Coble
Collins
Conyers
Cox
Culberson
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Diaz-Balart
Doolittle
Duncan
Everett
Flake
Gilman
Goode
Graham
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Hastings (FL)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hilleary
Hoekstra
Holden
Honda
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson, Sam
Kennedy (RI)
Kucinich
LoBiondo
Lofgren
McIntyre
Menendez
Mink
Norwood
Otter
Paul
Pickering
Pitts
Pombo
Riley
Rivers
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Royce
Sanchez
Sanders
Scarborough
Schaffer
Shows
Smith (NJ)
Solis
Souder
Strickland
Stump
Stupak
Tancredo
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Traficant
Visclosky
Wamp
Watson (CA)
Watt (NC)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Wolf
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—324

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Akin
Allen
Armey
Baird
Baker
Baldacci
Baldwin
Barrett
Bass
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blagojevich
Boehlert
Boehner
Bono
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Bryant
Burr
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Castle
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Combest
Condit
Cooksey
Costello
Coyne
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Doyle
Dreier
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Engel
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Frank
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Granger
Graves
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutierrez
Hall (OH)
Hansen
Harman
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hefley
Herger
Hill
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Holt
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jefferson
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kerns
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kleczka
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Largent
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McKeon
McKinney
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Mica
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Platts
Pomeroy
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogers (KY)
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Sandlin
Sawyer
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrock
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Sununu
Sweeney
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Toomey
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Velazquez
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Waters
Watkins (OK)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weiner
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Woolsey
Wu

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Kaptur

NOT VOTING—17

Bachus
Blumenauer
Blunt
Chambliss
Cubin
Deal
Ehrlich
Emerson
Fletcher
Gekas
Houghton
Hunter
Jones (NC)
Lipinski
McNulty
Snyder
Spence

□ 1144

Messrs. ALLEN, DELAY, GIBBONS and LEWIS of California and Mrs. MEEK of Florida changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. SOLIS, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia and Messrs. WAMP, HONDA, BERRY, FLAKE and BONILLA changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the joint resolution was not passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.J. Res. 55, the joint resolution just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

□ 1145

(Mr. THOMAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend his remarks, and include therein extraneous material.)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE REGARDING THE IRAN AND LIBYA SANCTIONS ACT

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I am in receipt of a letter dated July 24 addressed to me as chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means signed by the Speaker of the House.

The letter says that ''If the President submits a report, pursuant to the 'ILSA Extension Act of 2001' that contains a recommendation stating that the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act should be terminated or modified, and if a bill is introduced that would terminate or modify ILSA, as recommended by the President, within 60 legislative days of the filing of the President's report, then I will use my authority under Rule XII, clause 2(c)(5) to place a time limit of not more than 45 days on all committees to which such legislation is referred.''

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the letter just referenced.

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 24, 2001.

Hon. WILLIAM M. THOMAS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to Rule XII, clause 2(c)(5), the Speaker may subject the referral of a bill to a committee of primary jurisdiction to appropriate time limitations. If the President submits a report pursuant to the ''ILSA Extension Act of 2001'' that contains a recommendation stating that the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act (''ILSA'') should be terminated or modified, and if a bill is introduced that would terminate or modify ILSA, as recommended by the President, within sixty legislative days of the filing of the President's report, then I will use my authority under Rule XII, clause 2(c)(5) to place a time limit of not more than forty-five days on all Committees to which such legislation is referred.

Sincerely,

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House.

ILSA EXTENSION ACT OF 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 1954, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1954, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 6, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 276]

YEAS—409

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Allen
Andrews
Armey
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldacci
Baldwin
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blagojevich
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Collins
Combest
Condit
Cooksey
Costello
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Crowley
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Engel
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Frank
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Harman
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill
Hilleary
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kerns
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
Kingston
Kirk
Kleczka
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Largent
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mink
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaffer
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrock
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stump
Stupak
Sununu
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Toomey
Towns
Traficant
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Velazquez
Visclosky
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watkins (OK)
Watson (CA)
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—6

Conyers
Hilliard
LaFalce
McKinney
Paul
Rahall

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Bonior

NOT VOTING—17

Blumenauer
Blunt
Cubin
Deal
Ehrlich
Emerson
Fletcher
Gekas
Houghton
Hunter
Jones (NC)
King (NY)
Lipinski
McNulty
Radanovich
Snyder
Spence

□ 1206

Mr. CONYERS changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title was amended so as to read:

''A bill to extend the authorities of the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 until 2006, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I missed rollcall votes No. 275 and No. 276 on H.J. Res. 55, Disapproving Normal Trade Relations with Vietnam and H.R. 1954, The Iran Libya Sanctions Act. During the vote I was in a part of the Capitol building where the occurrence of floor votes was not indicated by the light/bell system. I request that the RECORD reflect that had I been on the floor, I would have cast a vote against H.J. Res. 55 and in favor of H.R. 1954, which I have cosponsored.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HOUSTON SOLAR RACE TEAM ON WINNING WINSTON SOLAR CHALLENGE

(Mr. WICKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to debate national energy policy, a solar-powered car race which concluded yesterday calls attention to the uses of alternative energy sources.

The Winston Solar Challenge is an educational competition among high school teams from across our Nation. The winner will compete in the world competition this November in Australia.

This 8-day race covered a 1,400 mile course from Texas to Indiana. The competition concluded late yesterday with the winning team finishing more than 271 miles in front of their closest competitor. I am immensely proud that the winner of this race is from the city of Houston, Mississippi, located in my district.

Under the guidance of advisers Danny Lantrip and Keith Reese, the team includes Captains Trey Ellison, Andy Goode, and members Daniel Black, Clay Bishop, Adam Duncan, Marshall Faulkner, Chris Free, Jason Mallone, Josh Moore, Casey Smith, Nikkie Smith, Bryan White, Jimmy Jones, and Jeannie Moore.

Congratulations to the Houston Solar Race Team on an extraordinary performance and a job well done. The city of Houston, Chickasaw County, the entire State of Mississippi, and now the United States of America are proud of you.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1317

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE) at 1 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2620, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107–164) on the resolution (H. Res. 210) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by the direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 209 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 209

Resolved, That the requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported on the legislative day of July 26, 2001, providing for consideration or disposition of the bill (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, last night the Committee on Rules met and reported this resolution waiving clause 6(a) of rule 13, requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Committee on Rules. The resolution applies the waiver to a special rule reported by the Committee on Rules on or before the legislative day of Thursday, July 26, 2001, if the rule provides for consideration of the first 2002 VA–HUD appropriations bill.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues are aware, the Committee on Appropriations has completed its work and filed H.R. 2620, the fiscal year 2002 VA–HUD appropriations bill and the Members have had the opportunity to review this legislation which addresses some of our Nation's most pressing needs. In fact, yesterday the Committee on Rules received testimony on this bill from a number of Members in anticipation of reporting a rule to bring this legislation before the House.

Adoption of this rule now will simply allow us to consider the appropriations package today rather than holding up this bill until tomorrow or even next week.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this rule and allow the House to complete its work on the business at hand.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this martial-law rule. I oppose the process that it represents where the Committee on Rules meets in the midnight hour rather than opening its deliberations in the daytime.

The hearing for this measure was held yesterday afternoon at 3 p.m. We have had more than adequate time to prepare the rule. I am at a loss to explain why we are once again preparing to circumvent the rules of the body and ram this controversial measure, martial law, down the throats of our colleagues. What aversion does this leadership have to regular order?

The ''martial-law measure'' we are considering is an extremely heavy-handed process and, under the Rules of the House, a two-thirds vote is required to consider a rule on the same day that the Committee on Rules reports it. But martial-law procedures allow us to bring a rule to be considered on the same day it is reported with a majority, rather than two-thirds vote.

Frankly, this process is baffling to many of us. For the first time in years, we are using this heavy-handed procedure on an appropriations bill, making its initial pass through the House. If anyone could explain the real reason why we find ourselves in this position, I look forward to hearing it. I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on martial law.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the grounds that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 216, nays 200, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 277]

YEAS—216

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Akin
Bachus
Baker
Ballenger
Barr
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bentsen
Bereuter
Biggert
Bilirakis
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Coble
Collins
Combest
Cooksey
Cox
Crane
Crenshaw
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeLay
DeMint
Diaz-Balart
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Ehlers
Emerson
English
Everett
Ferguson
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Fossella
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Goode
Goodlatte
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hilleary
Hobson
Hoekstra
Horn
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Isakson
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kerns
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Largent
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas (OK)
Manzullo
McCrery
McHugh
McInnis
McKeon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Morella
Nethercutt
Ney
Norwood
Nussle
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reynolds
Riley
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roukema
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Scarborough
Schrock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Stump
Sununu
Sweeney
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Thune
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Toomey
Traficant
Upton
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins (OK)
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—200

Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldacci
Baldwin
Barcia
Barrett
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop
Blagojevich
Bonior
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson (IN)
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Condit
Conyers
Costello
Coyne
Cramer
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Doyle
Edwards
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank
Frost
Gephardt
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green (TX)
Gutierrez
Hall (OH)
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hill
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hoeffel
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
John
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
Kleczka
Kucinich
LaFalce
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Millender-McDonald
Miller, George
Mink
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Phelps
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott
Serrano
Sherman
Shows
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thurman
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Velazquez
Visclosky
Watson (CA)
Watt (NC)
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOT VOTING—17

Armey
Blumenauer
Carson (OK)
Cubin
Ehrlich
Houghton
Istook
Lipinski
McNulty
Myrick
Northup
Schaffer
Snyder
Spence
Tancredo
Udall (NM)
Waters

□ 1351

Mr. BERRY and Ms. ESHOO changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MCNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent earlier today to attend the funeral of a member of my family and I missed rollcall votes number 275, 276 and 277.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted yes on rollcall 275, yes on rollcall 276, and no on rollcall 277.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY COMMITTEE ON RULES REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

(Ms. PRYCE of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules is planning to meet next week to grant a rule which may limit the amendment process on the Legislative Branch appropriations bill for fiscal year 2002. The bill was ordered reported by the Committee on Appropriations this morning and is expected to be filed later today.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment must submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a very brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules in room H–312 of the Capitol no later than 12 noon on Monday, July 30. Members should draft their amendments to the bill as reported by the Committee on Appropriations. The text is available at the Committee on Appropriations.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2620, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 210 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 210

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule

XXI are waived except as follows: beginning with'', except that'' on page 64, line 12, through ''drinking water contaminants'' on line 17. Where points of order are waived against part of a paragraph, points of order against a provision in another part of such paragraph may be made only against such provision and not against the entire paragraph. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on rules accompanying this resolution may be offered only by a Member designated in the report and only at the appropriate point in the reading of the bill, shall be considered as read, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the report are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill, points of order against amendments for failure to comply with clause 2(e) of rule XXI are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER); pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 210 is an open rule which provides for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), and the ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN), on H.R. 2620, the fiscal year 2002 Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies Appropriations bill.

The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. After general debate, any Member wishing to offer an amendment may do so as long as it complies with the regular rules of the House. The rule makes in order one amendment printed in the report accompanying the rule and waives all points of order against that amendment.

The rule waives points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI for legislating on an appropriations bill and prohibiting nonemergency designated amendments to be offered to an appropriations bill containing an emergency designation.

Finally, the rule permits the minority to offer a motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, this bill provides yet another example of a carefully crafted bill from the Committee on Appropriations that strikes a balance between fiscal discipline and social responsibility. I would like to commend the chairman and the ranking member, and all the members of the Committee on Appropriations, for making the tough decisions required to produce a thoughtful bill that meets our most important priorities.

While we can never agree on everything, this is a good bill which we can all agree addresses some of our Nation's most pressing needs. It takes care of our veterans, it addresses the Nation's critical housing needs, it helps to preserve and protect our environment, it invests in scientific research, and continues our exploration into space.

This legislation maintains our commitment to our Nation's veterans, who selflessly place themselves in harm's way so that we may enjoy the very freedoms which we so cherish. Our veterans deserve our thanks, but more importantly they deserve and have earned the benefits in this bill.

This year, the fiscal year 2002 Veterans-HUD appropriations bill provides an additional $1 billion over last year's increase for Veterans Medical Health Care, bringing the total to $21.3 billion.

□ 1400

I am proud to inform my colleagues and, more importantly, our veterans that we have increased Veterans Medical Health Care by $4 billion over the course of the last 3 fiscal years.

This bill increases Veterans Medical and Prosthetic Research yet again, by $20 million, and provides an extra $128 million over last year's funding levels for the Veterans Benefit Administration to expedite claims processing.

Finally, H.R. 2620 provides $100 million for Veterans Extended Care Facilities, an increase of $50 million over the President's request.

Mr. Speaker, along with providing for the needs of our veterans, this legislation makes available important resources to help the most vulnerable in our society with a very basic need: placing a roof over their heads.

Low-income families will benefit through this bill's investment in the Housing Certificates Program, which provides funding for Section 8 renewals and tenant protection.

A $1.8 billion increase over last year's funding level will allow for the renewal of all expiring Section 8 contracts and provide needed relocation assistance at the level requested by our President. A total of $15.7 billion is provided for this important program in fiscal year 2002. This includes $197 million to fund some 34,000 new Section 8 vouchers.

In my district in Columbus, Ohio, we know all too well how crucial this housing assistance is for families who are trying to lift themselves up and improve their lives.

Other needed housing programs that help our elderly, that help people with AIDS and that help the disabled are also receiving increases over last year's funding levels in this report.

H.R. 2620 also looks toward the future by preserving and protecting our environment for the next generations to enjoy.

The bill targets funding and places an emphasis on State grants to protect the water that we drink and the air that we breath.

The State Revolving Fund for Safe Drinking Water is increased by more than $25 million from last year's level, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund is funded at $1.2 billion, equal to last year's level, and, finally, State Air Grants are increased $8 million over last year.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation provides important funding which maintains our commitment to the exploration of space and the improvements of science.

I am pleased to say that the National Science Foundation is increased by some 9 percent or $414 million above the last fiscal year. This will go a long way to try to help foster scientific discovery, promote basic research, as well as increase science education.

NASA also receives an increase that will bring total funding to more than $15 billion. It fully funds the space shuttle operations and increases funding for the International Space Station programs. This will enable the United States of America to maintain our superiority in space exploration and aeronautical research.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this bill addresses an unexpected shortfall within the Federal Emergency Management Agency by providing $1.3 billion in emergency designated funding.

While, as a fiscal conservative, I am generally opposed to the use of emergency designations on appropriations bills, this bill and the amendment made in order under this rule provides that the funds will only be made available if it is determined that they are necessary for FEMA to meet the needs of the communities adversely affected by disaster. These funds simply represent an insurance policy for some of our Nation's hardest hit communities.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill, and it deserves our support. It takes a responsible path towards addressing our Nation's most pressing needs and priorities. I urge all of my colleagues to support this straightforward and noncontroversial rule, as well as this must-do piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Ohio for yielding me the customary half hour and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I have strong concerns about the rule and the process it represents. As I stated earlier, the Committee on Rules and the current leadership are developing a compulsive aversion to regular order. In what has become standard operating

procedure, the Committee on Rules emerged only moments ago to consider what should be a noncontroversial open rule on an appropriations bill making its initial pass through this Chamber.

The underlying bill is too important for this country to be treated so cavalierly. The gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) deserve rich praise for their work, particularly in adding funds to the President's anemic budget for science. The President's budget requested a meager 1.2 percent increase for the National Science Foundation, barely half the amount necessary to cover inflation. The Committee wisely added $368 million to the President's request, an amount which will allow on-going research in basic physics, chemistry, mathematics and engineering.

I was particularly pleased and gratified to see the inclusion of $8 million for a proposed Infotonics Center of Excellence in my district of Rochester, New York. This project will utilize my region's established expertise in optics, the science of light, that is critical to the future economic success of New York State. This will be a cooperative research and development facility where academic researchers, industry leaders such as Kodak, Xerox and Corning, and small companies can pool their resources and expertise. With this funding, we can begin to bridge the gap between basic research and product manufacturing focusing in optics, fiberoptics and the emerging field of photonics, transmitting data by light.

I also want to thank the chairman for the increase in funding for HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control funding. I was pleased that 50 of my colleagues signed my letter requesting this increase, and I look forward to continuing to work with the Committee as this funding works its way through the appropriations process. Many older houses and apartments still contain lead-based paint.

Research shows that children with elevated blood lead levels are seven times more likely to drop out of school and twice as likely to fall behind their peers in language acquisition. In my district of Rochester, New York, 37 percent of the children tested have more lead in their blood than the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say is safe. This increased funding will be a critical step in addressing this problem.

Many Members on this side of the aisle have expressed concern over veterans medical care and public housing programs that serve the country's most vulnerable citizens and families. Unfortunately, an inadequate overall allocation has forced the majority to rely on budgetary gimmicks to stay within the subcommittee's budget ceiling. These gimmicks include almost $1 billion of delayed obligations and ''pretend'' budget allocations such as the recommendation to eliminate funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service, a recommendation which the chairman announced prior to reporting the bill that he intends to reverse in conference.

These problems will cause the VA-HUD bill to be the first of the seven appropriations bills reported by the Committee that may not share broad bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, this country has the resources to care for its veterans and to provide adequate housing for the poor, the elderly and the disabled.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule for the VA-HUD Appropriations bill.

I share the concerns of some Members that the designated emergency spending within the bill is at odds with our broader imperative to uphold the principles of fiscal discipline, and I applaud my colleagues for their conviction. Yet, at the same time, it is imperative that we ensure FEMA has the necessary funds to be prepared for disasters and emergencies.

Every year emergencies and catastrophes arise that draw down the account FEMA maintains to fund expenses stemming from emergency response efforts. In Houston, we just got hit with several feet of water in one day. Houston, if you have not been there, is built on a plain. There is only so much water that our system can accommodate. We got hit with a lot more than that. Now we are facing billions of dollars in damages. That is catastrophic damage. It is the exact reason that we classify some events as legitimate emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, I have opposed and will continue opposing attempts to manipulate the process by lumping wasteful spending in with the legitimate expenses that we incur by responding to actual emergencies, but that is not the case here. The FEMA account generally has emergency funds in contingency reserve to deal with true emergencies, and the flooding from Tropical Storm Allison caused a real emergency in Houston and all through the South. We know that cleaning up the damage has nearly wiped out FEMA's funding, so several weeks ago on this floor I opposed the partisan fear tactics that were used by some of my colleagues on other side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, the fact remains that FEMA has the funds necessary to carry out their duties for the remainder of this fiscal year. FEMA has the funds to make it through the year. The responsible thing to do is to restore the funds to the account. It will enable FEMA to assist Houston's recovery, and as we move into hurricane season it will enable FEMA to stand ready to meet any short-term contingency as well.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work of the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) as we move through this process, and I ask my colleagues to vote for the rule.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, so far, with the six appropriations bills which have passed the House, we have seen bipartisan support for every single one of them. This is the first bill that will generate considerable opposition, and I want to explain why.

The fault does not lie with the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) or the subcommittee. He has done the very best job he could possibly do, given the allocation that he was given. The problem is that the allocation is too low, and that forces the bill to be at least a half billion dollars lower than it should be for veterans health care, and it cripples the enforcement of clean air and water laws across the country.

It forces the bill to provide inadequate funding for housing for poor kids. It forces the bill to eliminate the National Service Corps, which even the subcommittee itself admits is not a serious initiative, but they had to do it to, quote, ''fit into the so-called budget rules''. It forces a number of other reductions which everyone understands in the end are essentially irresponsible.

Why does it do that? It does it because the tax bill passed earlier in the year by this Congress sucked up every single dollar on the table, which meant that we had nothing left to deal with the long-term problems of Social Security, of Medicare, of education, of veterans medical care, of environmental protection or any other national priority.

Essentially, the House majority prevented the House from facing the real world trade-offs between tax cuts of the most well-off people in our society and other crucial funding for middle income and lower income people.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I asked the Committee on Rules to make in order an amendment. Since they are providing numerous other waivers, I asked them to make in order an amendment that would allow us to add $300 million to veterans health care, add $382 million to housing, add $311 million to the National Service Corps, add enough to restore the 65 EPA environmental enforcement positions that they have cut.

And we paid for it without cutting into the Medicare surplus, without adding to the deficit, by simply scaling back the size of the tax cut for people with incomes of over $330,000, by dropping it from 39.6 to 39.1 percent instead of the 38.6 percent that the House passed earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, the folks we are talking about have seen their after-tax income grow by $414,000 per family over the last 20 years. I do not think that it is asking of them too much to say, instead of getting an average tax cut of $53,000, to only get a tax cut of about $25,000. I hardly think that is going to put them in the poorhouse.

If we had that amendment before us, we would be able to try to use that money, which would be $1.3 billion, use a billion of it in this bill for veterans health care, for housing, for environmental enforcement and the like, still leaving $300 million available for additional education and defense priorities.

That to me is what we ought to do, but the rule did not allow it. So I will be asking each and every one of my colleagues to vote against the previous question on the rule so that we can offer this amendment to allow the House to choose whether giving a $53,000 tax cut to people who make $1 million or more a year is more important than enforcing our environmental laws, more important than giving veterans the medical care they need, more important than providing decent housing for poor kids.

Mr. Speaker, I think the moral choice is obvious. I would hope that the House would allow us to face these trade-offs. The problem with the budget that has been passed is that, very skillfully, these trade-offs have been avoided. We have not been allowed to exercise real-world choices. It is time that we grow up and make these choices.

□ 1415

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) chairman of the Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time and for her leadership on this rule and for guiding this bill through the House for the third year in a row. I hope we are as lucky this year as we have been the last two.

I think we have a good bill, Mr. Speaker. It is a work product that incorporates bipartisanship in its truest form. The gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) and I have worked hand in hand. Our staffs have worked hand in hand and worked together on priorities. We had a manager's amendment in the full committee that the gentleman from West Virginia helped to write. We incorporated that, and the bill was passed out of committee on a voice vote. So both parties, all Members, supported the bill.

I think it is obviously a very complex bill. There are a lot of different issues in the bill. Perhaps the most important, as always has been the case, is Veterans. The authorizing committee asked for additional funds in medical care discretionary funds, and we provided a billion dollars over and above what was provided last year. So in the past 3 years, we will have increased veterans' medical care by just over $4 billion. That is a very substantial increase. It is a tremendous commitment on the part of the Congress to provide funds to the veterans. In each case, we have met or exceeded the President's request dating back from the previous administration.

We also provided over $400 million for construction. This is a direct response to Members who felt that medical care centers around the country were in need of repair, major construction. This is a huge commitment that has not been duplicated in many, many years. So I think we have made a real effort here to put the funds where they need to be in Veterans.

We have also provided an additional $175 million above last year to provide for veterans' claims processing. This is Secretary Principi's highest goal, to provide those resources. We are going to help him to meet that commitment to get those waiting times down for veterans' claims processing.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WALSH. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. I appreciate what the gentleman has said in response to what we have already done by increasing the President's budget request for these extremely important issues. I know that we would like to do more. But we are doing the best we can to keep all of our bills within our budget number. We cannot go over that budget number.

What I wanted to say to our colleagues is that the Obey amendment might have been more acceptable except for one little problem, which I will refer to in a minute. All of our committees in the House, jealously guard their areas of responsibility and their areas of jurisdiction. The gentleman from Wisconsin is one of the outstanding leaders in doing that for the Committee on Appropriations, to preserve our prerogatives, and our responsibilities. The problem with the amendment that the gentleman from Wisconsin wanted to have made in order and he offered in the full committee, relates to two sentences:

''Paragraph 2 of section 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 relating to reduction in rates after June 30, 2001 . . .'', This is the tax bill, ''. . . is amended by adding after the table the following: in the case of taxable years beginning during calendar year 2002, the preceding table shall be applied by substituting 39.1 percent for 38.6 percent.''

That would change the tax law. The Committee on Ways and Means rightfully is protecting their responsibility and their prerogatives, in being opposed to this. I think it is incumbent upon us if we intend to maintain the integrity of all of our committee structures, that this is the reason we were not able to accept this amendment.

I appreciate the gentleman yielding. I also appreciate the good work that he and the gentleman from West Virginia have done to produce a really good bill.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WALSH. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding. Let me simply say that I am concerned with the integrity of this Congress. And I think we can start demonstrating that integrity by being willing to make the specific trade-offs that we have to make in the real world. The problem that we have is that the tax bill was passed before we ever had a budget. That was a clever device by which the House was shielded from having to choose whether it was more important to cut taxes by a specific amount for high-income folks or whether it was more important to use some of that money for veterans, for education, or for other high priorities. We have been denied every other way to make those trade-offs evident, so this is the only avenue left open to us. It may not be perfect, but it is a whole lot better than not joining the issue at all.

Mr. WALSH. I thank the ranking member for his comments. I would remind him that the Congress, both House and Senate, voted for that tax cut; and it is the law of the land.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN).

Mr. MOLLOHAN. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, the rule before us today is an open rule that allows all amendments provided for under the House rules to be offered. It also waives all points of order against provisions included in the committee-passed bill.

Of particular importance and interest, it waives points of order against a provision offered in full committee by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY). This provision would provide $1.3 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency designated as emergency funding. We all know about the disaster that Tropical Storm Allison brought to Texas and the Gulf Coast.

Other States, Mr. Speaker, have also recently experienced federally declared disasters. My own State of West Virginia is struggling to recover from recent flooding. Twenty-two counties have been included in the Federal disaster declaration and a recent estimate for West Virginia has placed the damage cost in excess of $175 million.

We know that the storm season is just beginning, and FEMA has told us that they will need additional funding. We need to provide it to ensure that communities that suffer disasters are able to receive Federal assistance in a timely manner.

While we in the minority would have preferred providing this funding in the fiscal year 2001 supplemental bill that was recently considered, the administration blocked that effort. However, in the statement of administration policy with regard to this bill, on the topic of emergency funding, they have indicated that they do not object now to the House including the emergency funding in this bill for fiscal year 2002. I am pleased that the Committee on Rules protected this provision.

I am disappointed that the Committee on Rules did not grant a waiver making in order an amendment to be offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), ranking member of the full Committee on Appropriations. His amendment would have provided $1 billion in additional resources to adequately fund many of the accounts in this bill that are admittedly underfunded. As an offset, the amendment would have decreased the recently enacted reduction in the highest marginal tax rate by just .5 percent. While I might consider this a minor change, for those who supported the tax cut, it has the implication of shifting millions of dollars from the highest-income citizens in our land to benefit some of the neediest citizens and neediest communities in our land.

Because this amendment was not made in order, I support efforts to defeat the previous question so that the rule can be amended to permit the Obey amendment to be considered by the House.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for yielding me this time, especially in light of the fact that I am rising in opposition to this rule. I would point out that it is a very reluctant opposition. This is the first time that I have opposed a rule since I have been in Congress.

The fact is in recent years we have been spending too much money. The result of that is that we are in grave danger, as a result of the spending increases we have had in recent years and the economic downturn, that within a few short years we could be back to raiding Medicare and raiding Social Security. We made a promise we would not do that. This rule makes that problem worse. It makes that danger worse. Let me explain why.

This bill, as we know, adds $1.3 billion in funding for FEMA. Above and beyond the $1.4 billion ordinary funding for FEMA, there is 1.3 billion additional FEMA dollars that have an emergency designation. The significance of the emergency designation is that that money does not have to be offset. So that means it is in addition to the entire budget. It is above and beyond all that we are going to spend in 2002. House rules forbid putting an emergency designation into a nonemergency bill. This rule breaks that rule. It waives that provision.

Why was that done, again I ask? It was to make sure that this did not have to be offset. That is what is wrong with this. Those of us who are going to oppose this rule do not do so because we necessarily oppose the FEMA funding. What we oppose is the fact that we are not going to be able to strike the emergency designation and require this to be offset; and as a result, we are going to increase the risk that we may, in fact, end up raiding Medicare or Social Security at some time in the near future.

I would also point out the President did not request this. Normally when the President requests an emergency, he sends a letter requesting emergency funding and designates a specific event. The President did not do that. In fact, he issued a statement of administration policy. I will quote briefly. It says:

''The administration appreciates Congress' attentiveness to the needs of FEMA. The administration is not, however, prepared to commit to a specific level of contingent emergency appropriations at this time.''

That is exactly what this does. It puts in an extra $1.3 billion. I urge my Democratic colleagues who object to not being able to offer an amendment, do not vote against the previous question only to vote for the rule. You ought to vote against the rule if you do not agree with this rule. I urge my Republican colleagues likewise.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT).

(Mr. MCDERMOTT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to also oppose the rule. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and I must read different things, but let me tell you why. This place passed out a tax cut way out there and now everybody stands up and says, ''We don't have enough money to do what's necessary.''

We are in such a fix that the leadership from Texas has to bring us out here and put us under martial law. Why? Because they want to have $1.3 billion in relief to Texas. Now, yesterday on the Foreign Ops bill, we could pass all this money, 300 and some odd million dollars to wipe out drugs in Colombia. But in this bill, because we need $1.3 billion, we take $310 million in drug money, fighting drugs, out of the public housing in this country. We worry about it in Colombia but not in our own cities. We wipe out AmeriCorps for $445 million. We are getting closer to that $1.3.

The issue here is what is an emergency. The White House says that what goes on in India, where they knocked down 100,000 houses and 30,000 people died, we can give them $5 million. That is how much the great and generous and rich United States can do. In El Salvador, where they have had the worst earthquake in history, we give them nothing.

So now the message here is to those Ecuadorians and San Salvadorans is get in a bus and get to Texas, because if there is any problem, it will get taken care of in Texas. The gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) says that West Virginia has a few problems. Folks, get in the car and get to Texas, because that is what we are going to take care of. We are not going to take care of anything else. We are not going to take care of CDBG. We are cutting money out of there. Of course we passed this community money into the churches so we all better write a letter to our churches, send more money, because you are not going to get it from the Congress.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Committee on Appropriations for their hard work on the bill. I offered an amendment in the Committee on Rules which was not granted a waiver and that is very, very disappointing, because my amendment would appropriate no additional funds and it would only authorize the use of existing funds for an important program. It would have authorized the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a minority emergency preparedness demonstration program to research and promote the capacity of minority communities throughout the country to get data, information, and awareness education through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements with eligible nonprofit corporations. These nonprofits would do research on the status of emergency preparedness and disaster response awareness in African American and Hispanic communities across the country, in rural areas, suburban areas and determine how they are impacted by natural and man-made disasters and emergencies.

□ 1430

Also, they would be authorized to develop and promote awareness of emergency preparedness programs in minority communities and to develop competent educational materials that could be disseminated in these communities and to organizations and institutions.

This was a good bill. It would be very helpful, particularly since in the past year there were 51 disasters in 33 different states, and this year there have been 23 disasters in 22 different states. The impact on minorities has been established by FEMA at 2½ times greater on minorities than any other group.

This is a very, very much-needed operation, given the disasters we have had; and I am very, very disappointed that the rule does not allow a waiver to allow consideration of my amendment, which has been printed and is in the RECORD.

I urge ultimate passage of the bill, but if we can defeat the rule and perhaps allow consideration of this amendment, I certainly would be appreciative. It would be good for America, good for African American and Hispanic communities that are impacted so greatly by our floods, tornadoes and natural disasters where there have been tremendous fatalities and loss of life over the past few years.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage the gentleman that just spoke to offer that amendment when the time comes.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT).

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, we are now in the eighth of 13 appropriations bills, and, as we drive this process to conclusion, I think it would be smart to stop and look at the fuel gauge.

That is what we have here, a gas gauge. We started out with a full tank, flush with surpluses, $95 billion this year. We did our resolution, 302(a), and gave $4 billion more than the baseline, so you take that out. We did a budget resolution with a placeholder number for defense. Now we are having to come back and put in a real number for defense, and, in outlay terms, it is $12 billion.

Because we did not adequately provide for defense and because we did not provide at all for emergencies, even though the chairman of our committee wanted to institutionalize that, it appeared that a bigger tax cut was feasible. So the tax cut for this year takes out $75 billion, but for a gimmick I will mention in just a minute. So when you factor in those changes you get down to $3 billion. That is how close we are to being empty.

Now, one thing saves us, and that is we did an artificial one-time transfer of funds from September 15 to October 1. The problem is, when we go home in August, that money may disappear when CBO does its update of the budget and economy. If that is true, we will really be running right on empty. That is all we have got left to provide for emergencies, to provide for other priorities that come along in this process before it is completed. That is what is wrong with the tax cut.

What happened? I do not blame the subcommittee at all. I did not get up to criticize the subcommittee. I think they have done as well as they could do with what was allocated.

But we pointed out if you went with this budget with these tax cuts and this allocation, this was going to happen to veterans. We could not fund fully the basic needs of the Veterans Health Care Program. It has happened. It has come to pass. We have less than they need. They have done a good job in trying to plus it up as well they could, but there is not enough there.

In the Housing Program, how could one pick a program that helps the vulnerable more than housing? We have a $20 billion backlog in capital requirements and maintenance needs. What are we doing? Taking a half billion dollars out of it. The housing projects are a haven for drugs. We are eliminating the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program.

This is a consequence of having a budget where we did not adequately provide for emergencies, we did not adequately provide for defense, we fooled ourselves about the size of the tax cut, and now we are inheriting the consequences. You see the fruits of this in the bill before us today.

I commend the committee for doing the best they could with what they have got, but these are the consequences of the tax bill that we adopted just a couple of months ago.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY).

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, the consideration of this appropriations bill and the rule attendant to it presents somewhat of a serious dilemma to all of us who are approaching this issue very carefully. On the one hand, it elicits only a sense of praise for the subcommittee chairman, the chairman of the full committee, the ranking members, for the way in which they have squeezed as much as they have into this bill, given the limited resources that they had to work with.

But that is essentially the problem. We have choked ourselves off in this country by this enormous tax cut that we passed earlier this year preceding the budget, in the craziest way of approaching fiscal policy I think we have seen in this government in a long, long time. What does that leave us with? It leaves us with some very serious problems we are not addressing.

The gentleman from South Carolina just made the point about housing. We have a $20 billion backlog in housing. We have a housing crisis in this country. Many people, in urban and rural areas across America, find it impossible to get a house. Municipal workers, for example, are not making enough money to afford a house in the present market. This is a housing crisis. There is no place for them to live and raise their families.

Similar things can be said about environmental protection. This bill does the best it can, but it does not provide nearly enough money to protect the quality of the natural environment from toxic discharges and other releases into the ambient air and the general environment.

That is a serious mistake. And why? Because we choked ourselves off with that huge tax cut, and we do not have the resources that we need to attend to vital concerns addressing our people. The same thing can be said about health care. The same thing can be said about our growing crisis in transportation. Look at any of the airports in this country and you can see it very, very clearly. Drive along the roads during rush hour. It becomes readily apparent. We are not doing anything to deal with the need for surface transportation, particularly rail transportation between our major cities.

So, this is a dilemma for all of us. We are not allowing ourselves to deal with these important issues facing the American people.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER).

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from New York just spoke of the inability of our budget to handle the needs of our people. I want to speak to the veterans' budget, the veteran parts of this budget, because the same is true there. We simply have let our veterans down in this budget. We have not honored the promise, we have not honored our commitment, we have not honored our contract with our Nation's veterans.

Now, we are fond on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, at least on the Democratic side, of saying that you do not have a surplus until you have paid your bills, and we have not paid our bills to the Nation's veterans. We had a decade of flat-line budgeting, and, as a result, the quality of medical care declined, the waiting times for appointments expanded greatly, and the new diseases and the diseases of aging veterans could not be handled with the same professionalism as previously. So we have not paid our bills to our Nation's veterans.

Now, the distinguished chairman of the subcommittee said that we added $1 billion to last year's budget. Well, all independent analysts say that $1 billion for our veterans' health care system barely keeps up with inflation and does not allow us to make the gains that we had promised over the last decade.

I am going to make several amendments to this bill when the time is appropriate to bring the level of the budget up to a more appropriate level, especially in health care.

All the veterans' groups in this Nation got together to produce something called the Independent Budget. What they did here was a very professional analysis of what was needed to care for our veterans, not just give me more money here or give me more money there, but let us reduce the waiting times to this number of days by putting this much money in. Let us increase the number of positions in the Benefits Administration so we can decrease the waiting times for adjudication. Let us make sure we can have research that will deal with the new diseases, like hepatitis C and the Persian Gulf War illness. That is what this Independent Budget does, and that is what this Congress ought to do.

So I will be making amendments to increase the health care budget by $1.7 billion, which is what the veterans groups' analysis says. We will try to make improvements in the health research budget. We will try to make amendments to treat such diseases as hepatitis C and also to treat the Filipino veterans of World War II who we have denied care to for the last 50 years.

So we will make those amendments. I hope they will get the similar waiver that you have for emergency funding,

that you have for other items. Let us really keep our commitment to our Nation's veterans.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in reluctant opposition to the rule. I have not been here long, but this will be the first rule that I have opposed. I am not insensitive to disasters like the one we had in Texas, but I just feel that it would be disaster to ignore the spirit of our own rules and go right back to emergency spending.

We are perilously close to dipping into the Social Security and Medicare surpluses. We promised our citizens that we would not do that. We are close to it. We need not do it.

The problem is not the tax cut, the problem is spending. We have had an average of 6 percent a year growth in spending over the past 3 years. That is the problem. We cannot simply cannot maintain that.

I urge a vote against the rule.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), a member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, there you have it. You have got one group in the House who says a $4 billion increase is too much spending. You have another group in the House that says it is not enough spending. You have a group in the House who gauges all reality on how many billions of dollars you can spend. And yet this House has passed a very balanced budget, a budget that funds the priorities. It puts in money for Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid. It pays down the debt. It takes care of our normal obligations of government, such as education, transportation and health care. Then it returns dollars to the hard-working taxpayers, and then it spends money wisely.

Yet this reckless scheme of the Democrats to blame everything on a tax reduction, you know, Georgia is going to get in the form of $300, $500 and $600 checks $1.2 billion in the next couple of weeks. Now, that is $1.2 billion that is going to be spent by normal people, like Joe and Shirley Harrington in Wilmington Island, Georgia, and what they are going to do with that money is do something real glamorous like buy a dryer, or maybe buy some clothes for the kids who are going to be going back to school.

This is not going to be enough money for a nice vacation, the kind of money that the big Washington bureaucrats make up here. But, do you know what, they know how to spend their money more than I do.

That is what the debate is about here today, who should spend that money: the geniuses in Washington, the big bureaucracy who can control people's lives through their spending, or should we empower the citizens of America who earned the money, the people that it belongs to?

We are faced with a very important bill, a very balanced bill, a bill that puts our veterans' health care spending over $1 billion higher than what President Clinton did. I want to repeat that. Veterans' health care provides a $1 billion increase over the last year, and yet I hear my friends saying no to that.

□ 1445

We are also going to put more money in Veterans Administration and medical and prosthetic research, in national cemeteries, in State extended health care facilities, and in veterans' hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, this is very, very important money.

In addition to that, we are going to put money into housing so that the poorest of our citizens can have fair and decent public housing and, there again, it is increased. We are going to put money in to protect the environment; and I, as a member of the Subcommittee on the Interior of the Committee on Appropriations, think it is very important to fund Superfund and to put money in leaking underground storage tanks, and safe drinking water, in clean drinking water State revolving funds. These are all important projects. I want to support them, and that is why I am support the rule.

I think it is important to say also that this committee has had to make some tough decisions. There are still many of us who remember when President Clinton stood in the well of the House and said, I am going to set up AmeriCorps; we are going to start paying volunteers for what they are doing for free. I guess this was some new concept in socialism in America, but people who are volunteers are doing it because they want to do it for free, but President Clinton wanted to pay them. We are saying there has been a lot of waste in that program. We do not think it is wise at this point to continue that risky scheme of paying volunteers.

So I urge my colleagues to support this rule. It does comply with the budget. Our budget, again, takes care of Social Security, Medicare, the normal and needed obligations of government such as education and housing and, in this budget, veterans. Then, it returns a portion of the surplus to the citizens of America, after paying down the debt.

Mr. Speaker, I say to my colleagues, this bill is in compliance with that budget that has passed both Houses, and I urge my colleagues to vote for the rule.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN).

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to oppose the previous question. If the previous question is defeated, the ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), will offer an amendment to the rule. The amendment will make in order the amendment offered at the Committee on Appropriations by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and also at the Committee on Rules.

The amendment adds $1 billion for veterans medical care, for critical housing programs, and to partially restore funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service, some of the issues that have been spoken to here during the debate on the rule. The money would come from paring back the recently enacted tax cut in the top tax bracket from 38.6 percent to 39.1 percent. That is one-half of 1 percent from the richest Americans to help some of the most vulnerable Americans and communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment and extraneous materials at this point in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

PREVIOUS QUESTION FOR RULE ON H.R. 2620, FY2002 APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE VA/HUD

At the end of the resolution add the following new sections:

''SEC. . Notwithstanding any other provision of this resolution, it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider the following amendment if offered by Representative Obey or his designee. The amendment shall be considered as read and shall be debatable for 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. All points of order are waived against the amendment. The amendment is not amendable and is not subject to a demand for the division of the question.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

At the end of the bill, insert the following new section:

''SEC. 427. Paragraph (2) of section 1(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to reductions in rates after June 30, 2001), is amended by adding after the table the following:

In the case of taxable years beginning during calendar year 2002, the preceding table shall be applied by substituting '39.1%' for '38.65'.''

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

In the paragraph ''Medical Care'', strike ''$21,281,587,000'' and insert ''$21,581,587,000'' in lieu thereof

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL FUND

In the paragraph entitled ''Public Housing Capital Fund'', strike ''$2,555,000,000'' and insert ''$2,837,000,000'' in lieu thereof

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

After the paragraph entitled ''homeless Assistance Grants: insert the following new section:

''SHELTER PLUS CARE RENEWALS

For the renewal on an annual basis or amendment of contracts funded under the Shelter Plus Care program, as authorized under subtitle F of Title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, $100,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That each Shelter Plus

Care project with an expiring contract shall be eligible for renewal only if the project is determined to be needed under the applicable continuum of care and meets appropriate program requirements and financial standards, as determined by the Secretary.''

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT

In the paragraph entitled ''Environmental Programs and Management'', strike ''$2,014,799,000'' and insert ''$2,021,799,000 in lieu thereof

At the end of the paragraph entitled ''Environmental Programs and Management'', insert:

'': *Provided further*, That the on-board staffing level of the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance shall be maintained at not less than the level authorized for this Office as of December 31, 2000''

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Strike the paragraph following the center head entitled ''National and Community Service programs, Operating Expenses'' and insert the following new section:

''(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for the Corporation for National and Community Service (the ''Corporation'') in carrying out programs, activities, and initiatives under the National and Community service Act of 1990 (the ''Act'') (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.), $311,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003: *Provided*, That not more than $50,000,000, to remain available without fiscal year limitation, shall be transferred to the National Service trust account for educational awards authorized under subtitle D of title I of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12601 et seq.).

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the previous question so that we can have an opportunity to vote on this critical amendment.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again, this is a good bill; and the Committee on Appropriations has done yeoman's work in balancing a number of very, very important priorities. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), the chairman of the committee; along with the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), the subcommittee chairman; and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN), the ranking member, have done a great job.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2620 responds to the needs of our veterans. It protects our environment. It keeps the U.S. at the forefront of space exploration. It provides needed funding to ensure new scientific discovery. It addresses our Nation's critical housing needs and, finally, helps more Americans realize the dream of owning their own homes. This we do without reversing tax relief that we just gave to the American people, tax relief which has not even gone into effect yet.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote on the rule and the underlying legislation. Support the previous question.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the rule and the bill. For the past four years, my colleague, Mr. TANCREDO, and I have offered and amendment to the VA/HUD Appropriations bill to restore or increase the funding of the State Extended Care Facilities Construction line item. I am extremely happy to report that the Committee has fully funded the program at $100 million for Fiscal Year 2002.

This program is used to renovate and build state nursing homes for veterans. State facilities have proven that they can provide above quality care at a more cost efficient price than the federal government. In Fiscal Year 1998, the VA spent on average $255.25 per resident per day to care for long term nursing care residents, while state veterans homes on average spent $40.00 per resident. This continued in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, the State Extended Care Facilities Construction program addresses the issue of long-term care for our nation's veterans. With the ranks of those requiring VA care growing on a yearly basis, states already face huge financial burdens in helping to care for our veterans. In Illinois, the waiting list for admittance to the LaSalle and Manteno state extended care facilities are as long as two to three years, and many ill veterans go untreated or are under-treated due to the lack of beds.

Additionally, this funding will help pay the millions of dollars in back payments to state care facilities. In Illinois alone, last year over $6 million was owed to the state for construction projects to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other facility updates. This funding helps with the payback of unfunded grant payments, and helps improve the supply of long term care for our veterans in the future.

There are two other programs that were not funded under this bill and it is my hope that we can work with Chairman WALSH and appointed conferees to have these provisions included in the final bill. I am requesting $800,000 through a HUD Special Purpose Grant or Community Development Block Grant to Cornerstone Services to relocate and expand its developmental training center. Cornerstone Services provides progressive, comprehensive services to persons with disabilities promoting choice, dignity, and the opportunity to live and work in the community. For 32 years, Cornerstone has been a leader in providing state-of-the-art services to meet the individual needs of persons with developmental disabilities, mental illnesses, physical disabilities, sensory impairments and dual diagnoses. The Will County-based, not-for-profit delivers developmental, vocational, and behavioral health services in five large agency-owned or leased locations and residential services in numerous agency or consumer-owned leased residences.

I am also requesting $600,000 to Joliet Junior College to assist funding efforts for the Bridging Community, Economic and Workforce Development through Local Partnerships Project. This project embodies many of the key components of Joliet Junior College's mission and philosophy, community development, economic development, and workforce development. The college's division responsible for this initiative is the Institute of Economic Technology. The institute operates a Small Business Development Center, Entrepreneurship Services Center, Dislocated Worker Assistance Center, Business Assistance and Training Center, and a Manufacturing Extension Center. The institute is a national model for business assistance services and economic development.

Both of these programs are desperately needed in my District and I hope that they will be included in the final VA/HUD appropriations bill.

Again, I would like to thank Chairman WALSH and the members of the House Appropriations Committee for committing to this funding, and for honoring our nation's veterans.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, when the people of Georgia's 8th district first elected me to be their representative, I felt that our number one priority as legislators should be to operate the Federal government within its means. My view on this important matter has not changed. I cannot, in good conscience, cast a vote in favor of a pay increase for Members while the Federal government is operating under such strict spending limitations.

I have committed to the folks back in Georgia to getting our Federal government's fiscal house in order. With the economy slowing and our work in Congress to keep government spending in check, it is wrong for us to give ourselves a pay raise. We must keep big government in check and remain fiscally responsible. As I have for the past few years, today I voted to oppose a pay raise for Members of Congress.

By voting against the previous question on the rule, I want to go on record as being opposed to a cost-of-living-adjustment for Members of Congress.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 220, nays 204, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 278]

YEAS—220

Aderholt	Calvert	Doolittle
Akin	Camp	Dreier
Armey	Cannon	Duncan
Baker	Cantor	Dunn
Ballenger	Capito	Ehlers
Barr	Castle	Ehrlich
Bartlett	Chabot	Emerson
Bass	Chambliss	English
Bereuter	Coble	Everett
Biggert	Collins	Ferguson
Bilirakis	Combest	Flake
Blunt	Cooksey	Fletcher
Boehlert	Cox	Foley
Boehner	Crane	Forbes
Bonilla	Crenshaw	Fossella
Bono	Culberson	Frelinghuysen
Brady (TX)	Cunningham	Gallegly
Brown (SC)	Davis, Jo Ann	Ganske
Bryant	Davis, Tom	Gekas
Burr	Deal	Gibbons
Burton	DeLay	Gilchrest
Buyer	DeMint	Gillmor
Callahan	Diaz-Balart	Gilman

Goode
Goodlatte
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Hart
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hilleary
Hobson
Hoekstra
Horn
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Isakson
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kerns
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Largent
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas (OK)
Manzullo
McCrery
McHugh
McInnis
McKeon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Morella
Myrick
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reynolds
Riley
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roukema
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaffer
Schrock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Stump
Sununu
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Thune
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Toomey
Traficant
Upton
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins (OK)
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—204

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldacci
Baldwin
Barcia
Barrett
Becerra
Bentsen
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop
Blagojevich
Bonior
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Condit
Conyers
Costello
Coyne
Cramer
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Doyle
Edwards
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank
Frost
Gephardt
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green (TX)
Gutierrez
Hall (OH)
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hill
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hoeffel
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jefferson
John
Johnson, E. B.
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
Kleczka
Kucinich
LaFalce
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Millender-McDonald
Miller, George
Mink
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Phelps
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott
Serrano
Sherman
Shows
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thurman
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Velazquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watson (CA)
Watt (NC)
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOT VOTING—10

Bachus
Barton
Blumenauer
Cubin
Houghton
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jones (OH)
Lipinski
McKinney
Spence

□ 1512

Mr. SCHIFF changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. LEWIS of California and Mr. SMITH of Michigan changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 228, noes 195, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 279]

AYES—228

Aderholt
Armey
Bachus
Baker
Baldacci
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Bass
Bentsen
Bereuter
Biggert
Bilirakis
Blunt
Boehlert
Bonilla
Bono
Borski
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Brown (SC)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Chambliss
Coble
Collins
Combest
Cox
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeLay
DeMint
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
English
Everett
Fattah
Ferguson
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Fossella
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Goode
Goodlatte
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Hart
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hilleary
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Holden
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Isakson
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Johnson (CT)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Largent
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas (OK)
Manzullo
Mascara
McCarthy (NY)
McCrery
McHugh
McInnis
McKeon
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Mollohan
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Oxley
Pascrell
Paul
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Platts
Pombo
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Regula
Rehberg
Reynolds
Riley
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roukema
Royce
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Saxton
Scarborough
Schrock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shaw
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stump
Stupak
Sununu
Sweeney
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Thune
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Traficant
Upton
Visclosky
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins (OK)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wolf
Wu
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOES—195

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Akin
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett
Bartlett
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop
Blagojevich
Bonior
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brown (OH)
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Castle
Chabot
Clay
Clement
Clyburn
Condit
Conyers
Costello
Coyne
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutsch
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Edwards
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Filner
Flake
Ford
Frank
Frost
Gephardt
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green (TX)
Gutierrez
Hall (OH)
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herger
Hill
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hoekstra
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jefferson
John
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kennedy (RI)
Kerns
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
Kleczka
Kucinich
LaFalce
Langevin
Lantos
Largent
Larsen (WA)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
Meehan
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Millender-McDonald
Miller, George
Mink
Moore
Nadler
Napolitano
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Otter
Owens
Pallone
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Phelps
Pitts
Pomeroy
Ramstad
Rangel
Reyes
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Schaffer
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott
Serrano
Shadegg
Shays
Sherman
Shows
Skelton
Smith (MI)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Stearns

Stenholm	Tierney	Watson (CA)
Strickland	Toomey	Watt (NC)
Tancredo	Towns	Weiner
Tanner	Turner	Wexler
Tauscher	Udall (CO)	Woolsey
Thompson (CA)	Udall (NM)	Wynn
Thompson (MS)	Velazquez	
Thurman	Waters	

NOT VOTING—11

Barton	Cubin	Souder
Blumenauer	Houghton	Spence
Boehner	Jackson-Lee (TX)	
Clayton	Lipinski	
Cooksey		

□ 1531

Ms. BROWN of Florida and Mr. LAMPSON changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2620 and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. YOUNG of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Chair for allowing me this time to advise the Members that we will do the best we can to expedite the conclusion of this bill today, if possible. It is a lengthy bill, and there are a lot of amendments. If the Members will cooperate and help us in assembling a list of all the amendments we will have to consider, we ask the Members who have amendments to offer to the VA–HUD bill to please present them at least by the close of the general debate on the bill. Hopefully, we would be able to finish this bill tonight.

I would also say that our leadership has made the decision that if we cannot finish the bill tonight that we would come back tomorrow to finish this bill, but we need to finish it before the beginning of next week.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Let me simply say I share the gentleman's desire to try to find a way to reach some type of understanding on this bill, but we have a practical problem. The problem is that there is considerable feeling on this side of the aisle that it is a might strange to ask for cooperation from the minority in setting time immediately after a martial law approach to this House was just rammed down our throats.

So while I will certainly work with the gentleman and I would urge every Member who has a potential amendment to, by the time general debate is over, get the text of those amendments to both sides so that we have some idea of what the universe of amendments is and we can try to work out a proposed timetable, I am not very optimistic at this point that we can get clearance on our side of the aisle.

I am told, for instance, that our leadership at this point is not contemplating providing clearance, but I would like us to continue to try to work this out. I know the possibility has been raised by myself of trying to get a time limit that would make certain that we would finish this bill. If we cannot finish it today, we could make sure that the timetable assured that we could finish it early on whatever day it was continued to.

I would hope, in light of the requests we have had from both sides, that that would not be tomorrow; that if we could not finish it tonight, it would go over to Monday or Tuesday. But I frankly do not care. I will be here either time. But I think people on the majority side need to understand that it is very difficult to get clearance on this side of the aisle after martial law has just been rammed down our throats. That is not usually the way in which the majority in this House elicits the cooperation of the minority in changing the rules.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman that I do appreciate his comments and I do appreciate the way we have been able to cooperate on the previous appropriations bills to have the time limit agreements so that no Member would be denied an opportunity to say what they have to say, but that we would try to do it in an expeditious manner.

As our former colleague and dear friend, Moe Udall, used to say on many of these debates, anything that needs to be said has already been said. The problem is not everyone has said it yet.

So with the cooperation of the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and both sides, we would be able to expedite the consideration of this and get done today.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, would the gentleman continue to yield?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to point out to the House that each of the previous regular appropriations bills has been supported on a bipartisan basis by the majority and minority. This is the first bill that we run into trouble on because, in our view, the allocation provided to the bill is insufficient, which means we will be starving housing, we will be starving veterans medical care and environmental enforcement.

Nonetheless, we had indicated our intention to work with the majority to try to work out time limits, but a little thing called martial law has blown that up. And I wish that people who have no responsibility for managing bills in this place, and I am speaking specifically of the leadership on the other side of the aisle, I know they like to wave magic wands and tell the committee to get its work done, but I wish that people who have an interest in seeing that work done in a timely fashion would work in a more cooperative manner with this side of the aisle if they are asking me to be able to get cooperation on this side of the aisle so we can do what the majority leadership wants to do.

It is sometimes hard to help people who do not want to help themselves.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Members for the bipartisan support on this rule. It was somewhat contentious, but we are prepared to take up the rule.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 210 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2620.

□ 1538

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, with Mr. SHIMKUS in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH).

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, it is a privilege today to present for House consideration H.R. 2620, the Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 2002. In the interest of time, I will try to be brief.

I would, however, like to begin by telling my colleagues that I believe this is a good bill and that the Administration has indicated that they support its passage. Just as presented in

each of the past few years, this bill represents a joint effort of both myself and my distinguished colleague and ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN).

While we clearly have not agreed on every single aspect of the bill as reported, it nevertheless represents a true collaboration of effort for which I am very grateful.

With the House's indulgence, I would like to outline the highlights of the proposal.

First and foremost, this proposed bill is within the 302(b) allocation, budget authority and outlays, that approved by the committee. The bill's discretionary spending totals $85.4 billion in new budget authority, which is an increase of just over $2 billion above the budget submission and some $4.8 billion over last year's bill.

I note for the House that this level of discretionary spending includes emergency spending of $1.3 billion for FEMA disaster relief, which was amended during the full committee markup by the majority whip. The committee has tried, as best we can, to spread the proposed increases throughout the bill.

Discretionary veterans program will increae by $1.6 billion compared to last year, with $1 billion going to veterans' medical care and the remainder spread to research, processing veterans' compensation, pension and education claims, operating our national cemeteries and, most significantly, increasing the necessary construction at VA facilities by some $434 million. That is a direct response to Member requests, and we think it is a high priority. The proposal is well within the scope of the amount allocated in the budget resolution.

Housing programs will increase by $1.4 billion compared to 2001, with increases in the housing certificate fund, section 8, public housing, operating subsidies, the HOPWA program, the HOME investment partnerships, the housing for the elderly and disabled programs, and the lead hazard reduction program.

It is important to note that this proposal also includes some very difficult, but I believe extremely important and highly defensible choices and changes in policy direction. They are represented by reductions in the Public Housing Capital Fund and the drug elimination grant programs. Neither of these programs is serving the best interests of the people they were intended to benefit. It is our job, albeit a difficult one, to take whatever steps necessary to remedy the situation.

In the case of capital funds, it means getting tougher on public housing authorities to spend the dollars intended for the residents in the public housing authority properties. There are literally hundreds of millions of dollars worth of code violations and hazards in these buildings that are not getting fixed.

In the case of the drug elimination grant program, it means taking an honest look at whether HUD is the best entity to run a law enforcement program. Based on HUD's track record, I do not believe that it is.

Mr. Chairman, I know these two items in particular will be discussed at length throughout the development of this bill in the House and in conference with the Senate.

EPA funding increases some $229 million over the budget request, although a decrease below last year's funding level. This proposal continues to provide strong research programs as well as increased resources for the many State categorical grants and significant resources for clean water and drinking water state revolving fund and congressional priorities for water projects and infrastructure grants.

FEMA operating expenses will increase by nearly $135 million over last year. We have provided the budget request of $1.37 billion in on-budget nonemergency dollars for disaster relief.

In addition, by virtue of the amendment in full committee markup, which I mentioned before, we have also included an additional $1.3 billion in contingent emergency spending for disaster relief. Those funds would not be drawn on unless the White House specifically asked for them and declared an emergency. I would just add that such emergency provisions have been used for several years to provide FEMA the ability to meet the needs of natural disaster victims.

In addition, our total appropriation of $2.6 billion for disaster relief is actually below the current 5-year average of $3.2 billion.

NASA programs would receive an increase of $641 million over last year, and we have proposed several structural changes in the Agency's account structure to provide them greater programmatic flexibility and the Committee better oversight capability. We have also included funding to reverse some of the changes to the International Space Station proposed by the President. I believe this is the right decision if the research mission of the station is to be fulfilled.

Finally, I am proud to say we have raised the overall funding for the National Science Foundation by just over $414 million to a total program budget of $4.84 billion. This is a 9 percent increase compared to last year. The bulk of these funds, some $292 million, would go to improve available resources for NSF's core research programs, while the remainder would be spread to major research, construction and equipment, education and human resources programs, and salaries and expenses for NSF's capable staff.

□ 1545

I would like to add that I personally would have liked to do more for NSF. However, to do so could only have been at the expense of other very important programs in other agencies. Having said that, given the increase proposed by the Administration of just 1 percent, I think we have done a remarkable job, and this is perhaps the aspect of the bill for which we can be most proud.

All Members are, of course, aware of the difficulty in putting these bills together, especially with so many diverse and competing interests. Developing the perfect bill is probably impossible. Nevertheless, I believe we have done a good job developing a bill that is both supportable and passable. Once again, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Committee from both sides of the aisle for their dedication, time, hard work, and thoughtful consideration of the provisions we have put into this bill. I would also like to thank our staff who has done a terrific job in helping us to sort out the priorities, to fund those priorities, and to make the hard decisions that are required. This job would be impossible without this highly professional staff.

Mr. Chairman, I include for the RECORD the budget tables representing the mandatory and discretionary spending provided in H.R. 2620.

VA AND HUD AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2002 (H.R. 2620)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I					
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS					
Veterans Benefits Administration					
Compensation and pensions	22,766,276	24,944,288	24,944,288	+2,178,012	
Readjustment benefits	1,634,000	2,135,000	2,135,000	+501,000	
Veterans insurance and indemnities	19,850	26,200	26,200	+6,350	
Veterans housing benefit program fund program account (indefinite)	165,740	203,278	203,278	+37,538	
(Limitation on direct loans)	(300)	(300)	(300)		
Administrative expenses	162,000	164,497	164,497	+2,497	
Administrative savings from prohibiting new Vendee Home Loans		-1,000			+1,000
Education loan fund program account	1	1	1		
(Limitation on direct loans)	(3)	(3)	(3)		
Administrative expenses	220	64	64	-156	
Vocational rehabilitation loans program account	52	72	72	+20	
(Limitation on direct loans)	(2,726)	(3,301)	(3,301)	(+575)	
Administrative expenses	432	274	274	-158	
Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program Account	532	544	544	+12	
Total, Veterans Benefits Administration	24,749,103	27,473,218	27,474,218	+2,725,115	+1,000
Veterans Health Administration					
Medical care	19,381,587	20,304,742	20,381,587	+1,000,000	+76,845
Delayed equipment obligation	900,000	675,000	900,000		+225,000
Total	20,281,587	20,979,742	21,281,587	+1,000,000	+301,845
(Transfer to general operating expenses)	(-28,134)			(+28,134)	
(Transfer to Parking revolving fund)	(-2,000)			(+2,000)	
Medical care cost recovery collections:					
Offsetting receipts	-639,000	-691,000	-812,000	-173,000	-121,000
Appropriations (indefinite)	639,000	691,000	812,000	+173,000	+121,000
Total available (excludes offsetting receipts)	20,920,587	21,670,742	22,093,587	+1,173,000	+422,845
Medical and prosthetic research	351,000	360,237	371,000	+20,000	+10,763
Medical administration and miscellaneous operating expenses	62,000	67,628	66,731	+4,731	-897
Total, Veterans Health Administration	20,694,587	21,407,607	21,719,318	+1,024,731	+311,711
Departmental Administration					
General operating expenses	1,050,000	1,194,831	1,195,728	+145,728	+897
Offsetting receipts	(36,520)			(-36,520)	
Total, Program Level	(1,086,520)	(1,194,831)	(1,195,728)	(+109,208)	(+897)
(Transfer from medical care)	(28,134)			(-28,134)	
(Transfer from national cemetery)	(125)			(-125)	
(Transfer from inspector general)	(28)			(-28)	
National Cemetery Administration	109,889	121,169	121,169	+11,280	
(Transfer to general operating expenses)	(-125)			(+125)	
Office of Inspector General	46,464	48,308	52,308	+5,844	+4,000
(Transfer to general operating expenses)	(-28)			(+28)	
Construction, major projects	66,040	183,180	183,180	+117,140	
Facility rehabilitation fund			300,000	+300,000	+300,000
Construction, minor projects	162,000	178,900	178,900	+16,900	
Miscellaneous appropriations (P.L. 106-554)	8,840			-8,840	
(Transfer to Parking Revolving Fund)	(-4,500)			(+4,500)	
Total	170,840	178,900	178,900	+8,060	
Grants for construction of State extended care facilities	100,000	50,000	100,000		+50,000
Grants for the construction of State veterans cemeteries	25,000	25,000	25,000		
(Transfer to Parking Revolving Fund)	(6,500)			(-6,500)	
Parking Revolving Fund		4,000	4,000	+4,000	
Total, Departmental Administration	1,568,233	1,805,388	2,160,285	+592,052	+354,897
Total, title I, Department of Veterans Affairs	47,011,923	50,686,213	51,353,821	+4,341,898	+667,608
(Limitation on direct loans)	(3,029)	(3,604)	(3,604)	(+575)	
Consisting of:					
Mandatory	(24,585,866)	(27,308,766)	(27,308,766)	(+2,722,900)	
Discretionary	(22,426,057)	(23,377,447)	(24,045,055)	(+1,618,998)	(+667,608)
TITLE II					
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT					
Public and Indian Housing					
Housing Certificate Fund:					
Direct appropriation	9,740,907	15,717,392	11,494,242	+1,753,335	-4,223,150
Advance appropriations provided in previous acts	4,200,000		4,200,000		+4,200,000
Subtotal, discretionary	13,940,907	15,717,392	15,694,242	+1,753,335	-23,150
(Advance appropriation)	(4,200,000)		(4,200,000)		(+4,200,000)
(Mandatory reclassification of prior year advance)		(4,200,000)			(-4,200,000)

VA AND HUD AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2002 (H.R. 2620)—Continued
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Rescission of unobligated balances: Section 8 recaptures (rescission)	-1,833,000		-886,000	+947,000	-886,000
Public housing capital fund	3,000,000	2,293,400	2,555,000	-445,000	+261,600
Public housing operating fund	3,242,000	3,384,868	3,494,868	+252,868	+110,000
Subtotal	6,242,000	5,678,268	6,049,868	-192,132	+371,600
Drug elimination grants for low-income housing	310,000			-310,000	
Revitalization of severely distressed public housing (HOPE VI)	575,000	573,735	573,735	-1,265	
Native American housing block grants	650,000	648,570	648,570	-1,430	
Indian housing loan guarantee fund program account	6,000	5,987	5,987	-13	
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(71,956)	(234,283)	(234,283)	(+162,327)	
Total, Public and Indian Housing	19,890,907	22,623,952	22,086,402	+2,195,495	-537,550
Community Planning and Development					
Housing opportunities for persons with AIDS	258,000	277,432	277,432	+19,432	
Rural housing and economic development	25,000			-25,000	
Empowerment zones / enterprise communities	75,000	150,000		-75,000	-150,000
Rural empowerment zones	15,000			-15,000	
Miscellaneous appropriations (P.L. 106-554)	110,000			-110,000	
Total	200,000	150,000		-200,000	-150,000
Community development block grants	5,057,550	4,801,993	4,801,993	-255,557	
Miscellaneous appropriations (P.L. 106-554)	66,128			-66,128	
Section 108 loan guarantees:					
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(1,261,000)	(608,696)	(608,696)	(-652,304)	
Credit subsidy	29,000	14,000	14,000	-15,000	
Administrative expenses	1,000	1,000	1,000		
Brownfields redevelopment	25,000	25,000	25,000		
HOME investment partnerships program	1,800,000	1,796,040	1,996,040	+196,040	+200,000
Homeless assistance grants	1,025,000	1,022,745	1,027,745	+2,745	+5,000
Shelter Plus Care	100,000	99,780		-100,000	-99,780
Total, Community planning and development	8,586,678	8,187,990	8,143,210	-443,468	-44,780
Housing Programs					
Housing for special populations	996,000	1,001,009	1,024,151	+28,151	+23,142
Housing for the elderly	(779,000)	(783,286)	(783,286)	(+4,286)	
Housing for the disabled	(217,000)	(217,723)	(240,865)	(+23,865)	(+23,142)
Manufactured housing fees trust fund		17,254	13,566	+13,566	-3,688
Offsetting collections		-17,254	-13,566	-13,566	+3,688
Savings from canceling S.1029			-8,000	-8,000	-8,000
Federal Housing Administration					
FHA - Mutual mortgage insurance program account:					
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(160,000,000)	(160,000,000)	(160,000,000)		
(Limitation on direct loans)	(250,000)	(250,000)	(250,000)		
Administrative expenses	330,888	336,700	330,888		-5,812
Negative subsidy 1/	-2,246,000	-2,323,000	-2,323,000	-77,000	
Administrative contract expenses	160,000	160,000	145,000	-15,000	-15,000
Additional contract expenses	4,000	1,000		-4,000	-1,000
Streamlined down payment requirements	7,000			-7,000	
FHA - General and special risk program account:					
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(21,000,000)	(21,000,000)	(21,000,000)		
(Limitation on direct loans)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)		
Administrative expenses	211,455	216,100	211,455		-4,645
Negative subsidy	-100,000	-225,000	-225,000	-125,000	
Subsidy	101,000	15,000	15,000	-86,000	
Guaranteed loans credit subsidy (emergency funding) (P.L. 106-554)	40,000			-40,000	
Non-overhead administrative expenses	144,000	144,000	139,000	-5,000	-5,000
Additional contract expenses	7,000	4,000		-7,000	-4,000
Total, Federal Housing Administration	-1,340,657	-1,671,200	-1,706,657	-366,000	-35,457
Government National Mortgage Association					
Guarantees of mortgage-backed securities loan guarantee program account:					
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(200,000,000)	(200,000,000)	(200,000,000)		
Administrative expenses	9,383	9,383	9,383		
Offsetting receipts	-347,000	-382,000	-382,000	-35,000	
Policy Development and Research					
Research and technology	53,500	43,404	46,900	-6,600	+3,496
Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity					
Fair housing activities	46,000	45,899	45,899	-101	
Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes					
Lead hazard reduction	100,000	109,758	109,758	+9,758	
Millenial Housing Commission					
Gifts and donations		1,500			-1,500
Management and Administration					
Salaries and expenses	543,267	556,067	556,067	+12,800	
Transfer from:					
Limitation on FHA corporate funds	(518,000)	(530,457)	(520,000)	(+2,000)	(-10,457)
GNMA	(9,383)	(9,383)	(9,383)		
Community Planning & Development	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)		
Title VI	(150)	(150)	(150)		
Indian Housing	(200)	(200)	(200)		
Total, Salaries and expenses	(1,072,000)	(1,097,257)	(1,086,800)	(+14,800)	(-10,457)

1/ Not included in FY2001 CSBA tables.

VA AND HUD AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2002 (H.R. 2620)—Continued
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Office of Inspector General	52,657	61,555	61,555	+8,898	
(By transfer, limitation on FHA corporate funds)	(22,343)	(22,343)	(22,343)		
(By transfer from Drug Elimination Grants)	(10,000)			(-10,000)	
(By transfer from Public Housing Oper Subsidy)		(10,000)	(10,000)	(+10,000)	
Total, Office of Inspector General	(85,000)	(93,898)	(93,898)	(+8,898)	
Consolidated fee fund (rescission)		-6,700	-6,700	-6,700	
Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight	22,000	27,000	23,000	+1,000	-4,000
Offsetting receipts	-22,000	-27,000	-23,000	-1,000	+4,000
Total, title II, Department of Housing and Urban Development (net)	28,590,735	30,580,617	29,979,968	+1,389,233	-600,649
Appropriations	(30,423,735)	(30,587,317)	(30,872,668)	(+448,933)	(+285,351)
Rescissions	(-1,833,000)	(-6,700)	(-892,700)	(+940,300)	(-886,000)
(Limitation on direct loans)	(300,000)	(300,000)	(300,000)		
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(382,332,956)	(381,842,979)	(381,842,979)	(-489,977)	
(Limitation on corporate funds)	(551,076)	(563,533)	(563,533)	(+12,457)	
TITLE III					
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES					
American Battle Monuments Commission					
Salaries and expenses	28,000	28,466	35,466	+7,466	+7,000
Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board					
Salaries and expenses	7,500	7,621	8,000	+500	+379
Department of the Treasury					
Community Development Financial Institutions					
Community development financial institutions fund program account	118,000	67,948	80,000	-38,000	+12,052
Consumer Product Safety Commission					
Salaries and expenses	52,500	54,200	54,200	+1,700	
Corporation for National and Community Service					
National and community service programs operating expenses	458,500	411,480		-458,500	-411,480
Rescission	-30,000			+30,000	
Office of Inspector General	5,000	5,000	5,000		
Total	433,500	416,480	5,000	-428,500	-411,480
Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims					
Salaries and expenses	12,445	13,221	13,221	+776	
Department of Defense - Civil					
Cemeterial Expenses, Army					
Salaries and expenses	17,949	18,437	22,537	+4,588	+4,100
Department of Health and Human Services					
National Institute of Health					
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences	63,000	70,228	70,228	+7,228	
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention					
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry	75,000	78,235	78,235	+3,235	
Total, Department of Health and Human Services	138,000	148,463	148,463	+10,463	
Environmental Protection Agency					
Science and Technology	696,000	640,538	680,410	-15,590	+39,872
Miscellaneous appropriations (P.L. 106-554)	1,000			-1,000	
Transfer from Hazardous Substance Superfund	36,500	36,891	36,891	+391	
Subtotal, Science and Technology	733,500	677,429	717,301	-16,199	+39,872
Environmental Programs and Management	2,087,990	1,972,960	2,014,799	-73,191	+41,839
Office of Inspector General	34,094	34,019	34,019	-75	
Transfer from Hazardous Substance Superfund	11,500	11,867	11,867	+367	
Subtotal, OIG	45,594	45,886	45,886	+292	
Buildings and facilities	23,931	25,318	25,318	+1,387	
Hazardous Substance Superfund	1,170,000	1,268,135	1,170,000		-98,135
Delay of obligation	100,000		100,000		+100,000
Transfer to Office of Inspector General	-11,500	-11,867	-11,867	-367	
Transfer to Science and Technology	-36,500	-36,891	-36,891	-391	
Subtotal, Hazardous Substance Superfund	1,222,000	1,219,377	1,221,242	-758	+1,865
Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program	72,096	71,937	72,000	-96	+63
Oil spill response	15,000	14,967	15,000		+33
State and Tribal Assistance Grants	2,620,740	2,232,943	2,355,000	-265,740	+122,057
Categorical grants	1,008,000	1,055,782	1,078,899	+70,899	+23,117
Subtotal, STAG	3,628,740	3,288,725	3,433,899	-194,841	+145,174
Total, EPA	7,828,851	7,316,599	7,545,445	-283,406	+228,846

VA AND HUD AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2002 (H.R. 2620)—Continued
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Executive Office of the President					
Office of Science and Technology Policy	5,201	5,267	5,267	+66	.....
Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Environmental Quality	2,900	2,974	2,974	+74	.....
Total	8,101	8,241	8,241	+140	.....
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation					
Office of Inspector General (transfer)	(33,660)	(33,660)	(33,660)	.....	.....
Federal Emergency Management Agency					
Disaster relief	300,000	1,369,399	1,369,399	+1,069,399	.....
(Transfer out)	(-2,900)	(-2,900)	(-2,900)	.....	.....
Contingent emergency funding	1,300,000	.....	1,300,000	.....	+1,300,000
Subtotal	1,600,000	1,369,399	2,669,399	+1,069,399	+1,300,000
Radiological emergency preparedness fund	.....	-1,000	-1,000	-1,000	.....
Disaster assistance direct loan program account:					
State share loan	1,678	405	405	-1,273	.....
(Limitation on direct loans)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	.....	.....
Administrative expenses	427	543	543	+116	.....
Salaries and expenses	187,000	203,801	197,900	+10,900	-5,901
Defense function	28,000	30,000	30,000	+2,000	.....
Subtotal	215,000	233,801	227,900	+12,900	-5,901
Office of Inspector General	10,000	10,303	10,303	+303	.....
Emergency management planning and assistance	249,652	334,623	384,623	+134,971	+50,000
Defense function	20,000	20,000	20,000	.....	.....
Miscellaneous appropriations (P.L. 106-554)	100,000	.....	.....	-100,000	.....
Subtotal	369,652	354,623	404,623	+34,971	+50,000
(By transfer)	(2,900)	(2,900)	(2,900)	.....	.....
Emergency food and shelter program	140,000	139,692	140,000	.....	+308
National Flood Insurance Fund:					
(Limitation on administrative expenses):					
Salaries and expenses 1/	25,736	28,798	28,798	+3,062	.....
Flood mitigation 1/	77,307	76,381	76,381	-926	.....
(Transfer out)	(-20,000)	(-20,000)	(-20,000)	.....	.....
National Flood Migration Fund (by transfer)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	.....	.....
Total, Federal Emergency Management Agency	2,439,800	2,212,945	3,557,352	+1,117,552	+1,344,407
Appropriations	(1,139,800)	(2,212,945)	(2,257,352)	(+1,117,552)	(+44,407)
Emergency funding	(1,300,000)	.....	(1,300,000)	.....	(+1,300,000)
General Services Administration					
Federal Consumer Information Center Fund	7,122	7,276	7,276	+154	.....
National Aeronautics and Space Administration					
Human space flight	5,462,900	7,296,000	7,047,400	+1,584,500	-248,600
Crew return vehicle	.....	.....	275,000	+275,000	+275,000
Science, aeronautics and technology	6,190,700	7,191,700	7,605,300	+1,414,600	+413,600
Mission support	2,608,700	.....	.....	-2,608,700	.....
Office of Inspector General	23,000	23,700	23,700	+700	.....
Total, NASA	14,285,300	14,511,400	14,951,400	+666,100	+440,000
National Credit Union Administration					
Central liquidity facility:					
(Limitation on direct loans)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	.....	.....
(Limitation on administrative expenses, corporate funds)	(296)	(309)	(309)	(+13)	.....
Revolving loan program	1,000	1,000	1,000	.....	.....
National Science Foundation					
Research and related activities	3,287,000	3,263,981	3,579,340	+292,340	+315,359
Defense function	63,000	63,000	63,000	.....	.....
Subtotal	3,350,000	3,326,981	3,642,340	+292,340	+315,359
Major research equipment	121,600	96,332	135,300	+13,700	+38,968
Education and human resources	787,352	872,407	885,720	+98,368	+13,313
Salaries and expenses	160,890	170,040	170,040	+9,150	.....
Office of Inspector General	6,280	6,760	6,760	+480	.....
Total, NSF	4,426,122	4,472,520	4,840,160	+414,038	+367,640
Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation					
Payment to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation	90,000	95,000	105,000	+15,000	+10,000
Selective Service System					
Salaries and expenses	24,480	25,003	25,003	+523	.....
Total, title III, Independent agencies	29,918,670	29,404,820	31,407,764	+1,489,094	+2,002,944
Appropriations	(29,918,670)	(29,404,820)	(31,407,764)	(+1,489,094)	(+2,002,944)
Rescissions	(-30,000)	.....	.....	(+30,000)	.....
Emergency funding	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(Limitation on administrative expenses)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(Limitation on direct loans)	(1,525,000)	(1,525,000)	(1,525,000)	.....	.....
(Limitation on corporate funds)	(296)	(309)	(309)	(+13)	.....

1/ FY2001 funding scored as non-add.

VA AND HUD AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2002 (H.R. 2620)—Continued
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2001 Enacted	FY 2002 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
OTHER PROVISIONS					
Filipino veterans provision	3,000	.....	.....	-3,000	.....
Grand total (net)	105,524,328	110,671,650	112,741,553	+7,217,225	+2,069,903
Appropriations	(106,087,328)	(110,678,350)	(112,334,253)	(+6,246,925)	(+1,655,903)
Rescissions	(-1,863,000)	(-6,700)	(-892,700)	(+970,300)	(-886,000)
Emergency funding	(1,300,000)	.....	(1,300,000)	.....	(+1,300,000)
(By transfer)	(66,560)	(66,560)	(66,560)	.....	.....
(Transfer out)	(-22,900)	(-22,900)	(-22,900)	.....	.....
(Limitation on direct loans)	(1,828,029)	(1,828,604)	(1,828,604)	(+575)	.....
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(382,332,956)	(381,842,979)	(381,842,979)	(-489,977)	.....
(Limitation on corporate funds)	(551,372)	(563,842)	(563,842)	(+12,470)	.....
Total mandatory and discretionary	105,133,328	114,867,650	112,616,553	+7,483,225	-2,251,097
Mandatory	24,581,866	31,504,766	27,183,766	+2,601,900	-4,321,000
Discretionary	80,551,462	83,362,884	85,432,787	+4,881,325	+2,069,903

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by thanking our excellent chairman, the gentleman from New York, for the work that he has done in crafting this legislation, the many hours that he has spent involved in it. Throughout the development of the bill, he and his staff have been accessible; and they have made every effort to accommodate the concerns that the minority have presented to them.

As I know he will tell you, we have not seen eye to eye on nearly all the issues in this bill. But the communication necessary for a cooperative effort has occurred and that is certainly very much appreciated.

The departments and agencies that are funded in this bill all deserve adequate funding, but the allocation that we have been given simply does not make that possible. Congress has been operating under unrealistic budget constraints fashioned for the purpose of justifying a huge tax cut. Many concerns were raised during the consideration of that tax cut, most importantly the concern of ensuring the solvency of Social Security and Medicare. While Members from both parties professed that these funds were sacred, as we await the Congressional Budget Office's mid-term reestimates of the government finances, including projections for fiscal year 2002, which are due out in mid-August, it is becoming clear that the tax cut might well invade the Medicare surplus. This is exactly what Democrats were concerned about. This is not fair to our seniors, and it is not good fiscal policy.

It is that same tax cut that is forcing the Committee on Appropriations to make do with fewer resources than are needed. This has resulted in an inadequate allocation to this subcommittee. This has forced the gentleman from New York to engage in a balancing act. While he has been able to do many good things, he has by necessity had to underfund some important accounts.

First, let me mention two specific accounts where the gentleman from New York has markedly improved upon the administration's request. The National Science Foundation is provided $4.84 billion, an increase of $414 million over last year. This represents a 9 percent increase rather than the 1.2 percent increase that the President proposed.

NASA, an account that has been flat funded for the past several years, is in need of funding increases. NASA would receive an increase of $641 million over last year's funding for a total budget of $14.9 billion. Importantly, the bill and report also begin the process of addressing the cost issues associated with the International Space Station. It provides $275 million toward the Crew Return Vehicle, a vital station component that President Bush would eliminate. This funding is conditioned on NASA reporting back to this committee its plan to address the Space Station cost overrun issue. In addition, NASA is charged with ensuring that research is not compromised in the solution.

To underscore the point that research continues to be a principal justification for the Space Station, the chairman's mark includes an additional $35 million for Space Station research. Further, the chairman's amendment includes an amendment that I proposed to the chairman that will add an additional $25 million. Once again, this bill reflects the strong support that science enjoys among the members of this subcommittee. But ensuring adequate resources for science is only one of the many important responsibilities that needs to be fulfilled by this legislation.

The funding levels for several of the accounts are clearly inadequate. For example, to his credit, the chairman has increased discretionary funding to the Veterans' Administration by $1.6 billion over last year's level. While this is a large increase, it falls significantly short of the medical care need as outlined most recently by the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the authorizing committee.

Programs within the Department of Housing and Urban Development are cut and several receive no funding at all. These include public housing capital funds, drug elimination grants, rural housing and economic development, empowerment zones, and shelter-plus-care homeless renewals.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is zero-funded and the Community Development Financial Institutions fund is sharply reduced from last year. I know that the gentleman from New York shares my concern about most of these accounts and that he would provide more resources to them if he could.

Today, amendments will be offered addressing some of the problems in the bill. However, even if adopted they will not remedy all the funding shortfalls in this legislation. Resources are simply not available to address the larger issues. We need more money.

From veterans, to housing, to water and sewer needs and even science, more needs to be done, Mr. Chairman. I hope that as this process moves forward, additional resources will be made available allowing us to properly fund the many needy, deserving programs in this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG), a hardworking member of the subcommittee.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman first of all for yielding me time and I in particular want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) for the very, very difficult and hard work that they have done on this bill. We have to obviously recognize Frank Cushing, who heads the staff, and all of the staff, who have done, I think, yeoman's work in bringing about the expertise that produces a product that is one that, I think, we should all be happy to support. The quality of the committee members should be highlighted along with the quality of their work product as well.

This appropriations bill is unique in that it covers an array of diverse agencies ranging from the Veterans Administration to the EPA. That is quite a broad stretch. It is not easy. It is not an easy task to bring this wide range of interests together into a single bill. But the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from West Virginia have a working relationship that I think makes all this possible.

The fiscal year 2002 VA–HUD bill is a fair piece of legislation produced under difficult circumstances, and it is within the budget resolution. It responsibly provides a $1 billion increase for veterans' medical health care, and increases funding for the Veterans Benefits Administration to reduce the backlog of claims. The bill increases funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development by $1.4 billion and fully funds section 8 housing. H.R. 2620 also provides sound investments in research with a 9 percent increase for NSF.

The gentleman from New York, I believe, should be saluted for crafting this piece of legislation under these difficult circumstances. He has worked in good faith with the ranking member and the other side in a bipartisan way to forge the bill that is now before the House. As this process moves forward, we will have plenty of opportunities from Members to offer their suggestions and amendments before the President finally puts his signature on it.

This is a good, responsible bill. I encourage strongly my colleagues to support it.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) who is a very effective, hardworking member of our subcommittee.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. I want to thank the gentleman from West Virginia for yielding me this time, and I want to thank the gentleman from New York.

Mr. Chairman, I have had the privilege and the pleasure of serving on this subcommittee. It is a very good subcommittee. It is very hardworking. I also want to give my thanks to the staff. They have just worked assiduously with all of us to make this bill come out as it is. We do owe them a great debt of gratitude.

I want to say that the main problem I see with this bill is that it is underfunded. It is not because we do not

have good leadership on this subcommittee or we do not have good supportive staff, but the fact that it is underfunded, the allocation was not adequate, probably due to the fact that we had to fund a great tax bill, now the results of that tax cut is coming back to haunt us in terms of being able to fund programs that come under our jurisdiction.

We were not able to fund veterans as much as we would have liked to have done. Therefore, we are seeing that as being a gap in this bill. The HOME account, however, there were some very good things going on in terms of accountability in the bill. The HOME account was increased by $200 million. It is one of the most valuable housing programs because it is very versatile and it is very effective.

That was very good of our subcommittee to be able to do this. Also, the subcommittee increased by 34,000 incremental vouchers which allow access to affordable housing on the private market. That is needed for additional low-income families. Section 202, one of my favorite programs for senior citizens, is increased by $4.2 million over fiscal year 2001. Also, this bill increases funding for HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control. All these are strong points in the bill. Even though we were not able to fund adequately all of the programs, there are many bright spots in this bill, particularly what we were able to do for the National Science Foundation.

However, despite these responsible funding levels, Mr. Chairman, and these lack of funding levels that I would like to see, this bill underfunds some areas which I must call the committee's attention to. It underfunds public housing. It is a part of our bill, a part of our assessment that it should be funded strongly. It underfunds community development. It also cuts money from the Public Housing Capital Fund which helps to rebuild the worn-down and torn-up housing projects throughout this Nation. That is very badly needed. Children are in these housing projects. That makes it even more so. There are about 3 million low-income people that depend on public housing. One million of those are children.

The drug elimination grants which we have heard so many people talk about is also eliminated. It is needed. We need to keep drug trafficking out of our housing projects. Just the day before yesterday we voted $676 million in foreign aid to eliminate drugs. We need to eliminate drugs, Mr. Chairman, right here in our own country.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), another very hardworking and dedicated member of the subcommittee.

(Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the VA appropriations bill and to thank, as others have done, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) for his leadership and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) for his leadership and cooperation.

Our bill, Mr. Chairman, helps the Veterans Administration provide health care to over 3.8 million men and women, who required last year over 717,000 inpatient visits and over 39 million outpatient visits to our Nation's 172 VA hospitals, 135 nursing homes, and over 600 outpatient clinics countrywide.

This bill provides for those purposes this year an additional $1.1 billion over last year's level for their medical care, for a total in the medical care account of $21.2 billion. With this latest increase, Congress will have provided an additional $4 billion for veterans' medical care over the past 3 years.

On a specific issue, our bill continues to direct Secretary Principi to address the serious issue of hepatitis C among the veterans population, particularly those of the Vietnam era.

On the housing front, the bill provides $30 billion for that agency, an increase of $2 billion over last year's level, and it continues our commitment to increasing housing opportunities for all people in need but especially for individuals with disabilities.

□ 1600

This bill that we consider today will provide funding for nearly 8,000 vouchers specifically to provide decent, accessible housing for individuals with disabilities who often must compete with programs that provide housing for the elderly.

On the environmental protection front, the committee has provided $1.2 billion for the Superfund hazardous waste cleanup program. This vital program cleans up our Nation's most polluted sites and, in many cases, can restore formerly toxic sites to new productive uses. My own State has more of these sites than any other State in the Nation. Despite local successes in the Superfund cleanups, there are many more sites to be cleaned up and more sites and brownfields sites than ever.

Like the chairman, I think we need to highlight the fact that this bill substantially increases funding for the National Science Foundation by $415 million, or 9 percent, over last year's level, for a total of $4.8 billion over last year's amount. Basic scientific research funding is critical, and I particularly commend the gentleman from New York (Chairman WALSH) for his leadership and responsiveness which led to this much-deserved increase.

The committee has also provided $14.9 billion for NASA, an increase of $641 million over fiscal year 2001. While the committee rightly has concerns about cost overruns of the International Space Station, overall NASA is responsible for a number of research initiatives.

For this and other reasons, I support the bill.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend from West Virginia for yielding me time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the NASA funding included in this legislation, particularly as it relates to NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland. Glenn Research Center provides over $1 billion a year to Ohio's economy. Over 12,000 jobs exist in Ohio thanks to Glenn Research Center. Glenn Research Center grants over $10 million a year to Ohio's universities, and NASA has an important impact on our everyday lives.

Glenn Research Center has given us advances in biotechnology, to improve our health care, led in the development of quiet aircraft technology to minimize the noise in communities surrounding airports, and spearheaded research that benefits space travel.

Glenn Research Center also developed a lightweight battery that enables energy storage in space, in our own laptops and cell phones. This Congress's investment in Glenn Research Center benefits every American. I am pleased the subcommittee has recognized the importance of Glenn Research Center.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from New York (Chairman WALSH) and I thank the ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN).

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguish gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Rules, for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by complimenting both the gentleman from New York (Chairman WALSH) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) for the superb job they have done on this bill, especially in the area of investment in scientific research and our Nation's space program.

I am joined by my very distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Glendale, California (Mr. SCHIFF), who has also joined with me in representing the area of Pasadena, which includes the Jet Propulsion Lab, and I would like to make a couple of comments about this.

Unfortunately, the vision that I just mentioned that the chairman and ranking member and the work of the subcommittee and the full committee reported out is not shared by the piece that came out from our friends in the other body. It not only does not provide sufficient funding for the National Science Foundation and NASA, but it goes so far as to propose the systematic dismantling of one of our Nation's national treasures, the Solar System Exploration Program.

While the proposed transfer of the Telecommunications and Mission Operations Directorate to the Consolidated

Space Operations Contract is portrayed as an effort to save money and consolidate space operations, the cost savings are illusory and the transfer would be devastating to the space program.

The proposal assumes that an industry contractor can absorb the telecommunications and missions operations activities, but, in fact, because the deep space environment is substantially more hostile than the near-Earth environment, the personnel who presently operate the Earth orbiting satellites do not now possess the experience or training required to operate a spacecraft in deep space. Therefore, the contractor would have to hire new people to do the work.

Furthermore, in order to achieve the level of savings promised by the Senate, the contractor would be forced to conduct the missions with fewer than half the personnel presently on the missions. Unfortunately, we have already learned the short-staffing lesson the hard way. The Young Commission's findings on the loss of the two Mars missions concluded that the principal failure for both missions was the result of NASA headquarters' limitations on participation by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's expert staff. Unfortunately, the bill from the other body ignores this finding and further weakens JPL's role.

In addition, the Senate proposal would transfer the mission operations and communications for all of the solar system exploration missions, including Galileo, Mars Global Surveyor, Ulysses, Cassini, Voyager and Mars Odyssey to an outside contractor.

Mr. Chairman, I am certain that this body did not authorize and appropriate the millions of dollars needed to fund these programs with the idea that they would then be outsourced to a new and inexperienced operations and communications team. We expect, and indeed should demand, that the operations of these high-risk, high-reward missions be conducted by the most capable, most qualified and the most experienced personnel available.

Mr. Chairman, I know personally NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory is the authority on deep space exploration, and the House cannot allow the Senate to place these vital missions in jeopardy simply to fulfill the parochial interests that exist in the other body.

I am joined, as I said, by my colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the gentleman from California (Mr. COX), the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and others to ask that you refuse to accept any of these shortsighted proposals during conference; and, in a bipartisan fashion, we offer whatever assistance we may have in this effort.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his comments and look forward to working with him.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to join my colleague and neighbor from California in his praise for your leadership as well as the leadership of the gentleman from West Virginia and to urge that we turn back the Senate's proposals which I believe will seriously undermine the Solar System Exploration Program.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory is managed for NASA by the California Institute of Technology, Caltech. The Senate makes three proposals that are damaging to Caltech, damaging to NASA and damaging to the space program. The first is the transfer of telecommunications and mission operations to an outside contractor, as discussed by my colleague; the second is the reduction of $50 million from the Mars Surveyor program; and the third is the transfer of the Europa mission and the entire Solar System Exploration Program from JPL to an ad hoc grants program.

The combined impacts on JPL of these three proposals would be the elimination of 1,200 jobs at JPL and the resulting elimination of highly trained personnel and unnecessarily imperil our Nation's space exploration program.

Essentially, the Senate proposes that the critical mass of talent, experience and know-how which resides at JPL should be dispersed and that the core of NASA's exploration program should be conducted piecemeal and ad hoc.

At a time when the Nation is facing a critical shortage of experienced personnel in public service, the Senate proposals would terminate hundreds of engineers, technicians and scientists who possess the greatest level of knowledge regarding space exploration. The consequences would be tragic, and the Nation's space program would suffer a tremendous setback.

Mr. Chairman, I am proud to represent the best and brightest in a field where the advancement of science inspires young children and captures the imagination of millions, but I believe the space exploration program at JPL also serves the Nation as a whole.

NASA's solar exploration program carefully laid out and scrutinized resides at JPL because for the past 50 years this Congress has invested in the creation of the talent and infrastructure that exists at JPL. They are the experts, and this is rocket science.

For this body to allow that investment in space exploration to be jeopardized in this manner would be a disservice to the Nation and contrary to the fiscal duty we owe taxpayers.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume to complete the colloquy.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say I thank both gentlemen for their comments, and please be assured we will not allow investments made in the space exploration program to be wasted. Be assured that both the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) and I look forward to working with the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) to ensure that JPL remains one of the premier space research facilities in the country.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will yield very briefly, I would just say this is not rocket science. What they do out at JPL is rocket science.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the distinguished ranking minority member on the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, the Congressional Budget Office just finished the study which showed that over the last 20 years the wealthiest 1 percent of people in this country had an after-tax income gain on an annual basis of $414,000 per year. The tax bill which this Congress passed just a couple of months ago gave those people on average a $53,000 tax cut, about an 8 percent increase in their after-tax income.

That study also showed if you are exactly in the middle of the income stream, you have had an income increase over the past 20 years of about $3,400, and the tax bill that passed gave those folks not an 8 percent or 7 percent or 6 percent increase in their after-tax income, it gave those folks a 2 percent increase in their after-tax income.

That study also showed if you were in the poorest 20 percent of people in this society, that you actually have lost $100 in your annual income over the last 20 years, and those folks got a 1 percent on average increase in their after-tax income by the tax bill that passed, except for the almost one-third of people in that bracket who got nothing whatsoever because they made too little money to qualify for the tax cut.

That tax bill took so much money that it made it impossible for the Committee on Appropriations to give the gentleman from New York an adequate allocation for this bill; and because of that fact, not because of the desires of the gentleman, but because of the realities imposed by that misguided tax bill, this bill today is at least half a billion dollars short in providing needed veterans medical care. It is desperately short of the levels we need to be at to provide assistance for low-income people to obtain decent housing. It weakens our ability to provide environmental protection, and it does a number of other things that are not in the long-term interests of this country.

I have voted for the last five appropriation bills this House produced because I thought they were decent, bipartisan products, even though they were not perfect. But this bill I will not be supporting because of the shortcomings that I have cited.

I do want to say, however, that I think the gentleman from New York has done a very decent job with the

limited amount of resources that he had available to him, and I especially commend him for the way he dealt with the science budget. We needed an increase over the White House budget for science.

There is another strange twist to this bill, however. We tried on this side of the aisle on three occasions to get the majority to recognize that we were going to need more money for disaster assistance in FEMA's budget for the existing fiscal year. We were blocked on each of those three occasions.

Now, however, this bill contains a $1.3 billion item which has been labeled an emergency by no one less than the distinguished majority whip. That is the same distinguished majority whip who last year took the floor to defend the idea that somehow funding the census was an emergency, as though we did not know that every 10 years we are required by the Constitution to conduct a census. So I find that flip-flop strange indeed.

It is because of that flip-flop that this bill has been delayed for the better part of a day, and yet the majority leadership now somehow expects us to be able to make up the time lost by the internal divisions within the majority party caucus on this issue, and yet they expect us to work a miracle and finish this bill by 10, 11, 12 o'clock tonight. There are some 44 amendments pending. I do not believe it is possible to come anywhere near closure, even though we will try to work with the majority.

So I would simply say that if this bill cannot be finished tonight, it ought to be clearly understood why. It is not because of any delay on the part of anyone. It is simply because of the inconsistency which was noticed by the majority party caucus, the inconsistency represented by the DeLay amendment. While I support the DeLay amendment, I regret the ridiculous turmoil that it has caused.

□ 1615

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman, I am the ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Housing. There are enormous questions at issue here, and trying to rush them through would be inappropriate.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA), the distinguished subcommittee chair of the authorizing committee.

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his distinguished leadership on this issue.

Certainly, as the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Housing, I have just completed a series of hearings on the availability of affordable housing. These hearings focused on many of the programs within the jurisdiction of this appropriation bill, such as HOME, CDBG, section 8 vouchers, section 202 elderly housing, homeless and the disabled.

We have an intelligent understanding, even in this good economy, that there are a growing number of hardworking Americans who suddenly cannot afford rental housing that they are occupying because of the higher rents in their particular area. So at our housing affordability hearings, witness after witness reinforced the need for improved administration, utilization, and delivery of HUD programs. Furthermore, programs like HOME, CDBG, HOPE, section 8 vouchers, disability and 202 for the elderly, all of these programs need community development groups that can help them and can more efficiently and effectively meet the needs of these vulnerable populations.

Now that we have concluded the hearings, it is our intention to begin crafting legislation that will help to meet the needs of the growing housing affordability and availability problem.

We must remember, and I say this as a strong fiscal conservative, we must remember that the American taxpayer deserves consideration in this budget debate as well. If directing resources from one program to another means, as is done in this bill, means resources are being more efficiently and effectively used, then we should be supportive. The gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) has done that in this bill.

I would like to point out that the bill is not absolutely perfect, but I must say that I wish it had included credit subsidies.

I rise in support of this bill today. Chairman WALSH was given limited resources, and he has worked hard to craft a bill that is fair to all the competing interests and programs within his jurisdiction.

As Chair of the Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing, I have just completed a series of hearings on the availability of affordable housing. These hearings focused on many of the programs within the jurisdiction of this appropriations bill, such as HOME, CDBG, section 8 vouchers, section 202 elderly housing, homeless and the disabled.

This country is facing a growing housing crisis. The growth in the economy has created a major dilemma for an increasing number of working class and low-income Americans—a better economy means higher rents in many areas. A growing number of hard working Americans suddenly can't afford the rental housing they are occupying, or can't even find any housing available that is geared to their income levels. In addition, our government is faced with the increasing budget needs of our existing public housing system as well as how to pay for future housing demands.

At our housing affordability hearings, witness after witness reinforced the need for improved administration, utilization and delivery of HUD's programs. Furthermore, programs like HOME, CDBG, HOPE VI, section 8 vouchers, section 202, disability and homeless programs need more flexibility so that housing finance agencies, PHAs and community development groups can more effectively and efficiently meet the needs of these vulnerable populations.

Now that we have concluded the hearings, it is our intention to begin crafting legislation that will help to better meet the needs of this growing housing affordability and availability problem. We will be looking at ways to improve the delivery and administration of HUD administered programs.

I know that many members plan to offer amendments today concerning programs that fall within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Housing. I invite members who may have problems or concerns with this bill to work with the authorizing committee to address those concerns. Clearly, changes are warranted to many of these programs so that they better meet the needs of the people that so desperately need our help.

I consider myself a strong fiscal conservative, so for my part I do not automatically presume that each and every government program that currently exists deserves an increase in funding, merely by virtue of being there. Let us remember that the American taxpayer deserves consideration in this budget debate as well. If redirecting resources from one program to another means resources are being used more efficiently and effectively, then we should be supportive.

Faced with sharp budget constraints, Chairman WALSH has worked hard to use the taxpayers money in the most effective and efficient way possible. Where funds have not been spent in a timely manner, he has recaptured those funds and redirected them to programs that can use them now. Funding for programs with proven track records—like HOME, public housing operating subsidies, and housing for disabled and elderly has been increased in this appropriations bill.

This bill isn't perfect—for example, I wish it included credit subsidies to ensure the continued operation of the FHA multifamily loan program; and I will continue to work with both OMB and the Appropriation's Committee to determine how best to address continued funding for that program. In fact, just last week, I asked GAO to conduct a review of the issues surrounding the credit subsidy, such as how it is assessed and whether it is consistent with current default rates. There are good arguments on both sides of the issue relating to whether we have an accurate risk assessment of the credit subsidy. I am hopeful that the GAO will provide some insight on how best to proceed in resolving this crisis and whether an actual insurance premium is necessary.

Finally, I am glad that the Chairman has included provisions for the President's Downpayment Assistance Program. Home funds are distributed by formula to states and local participating jurisdictions which have the flexibility to use these funds for a variety of purposes, including downpayment assistance. The President's initiative would allow this to continue, but would require state and localities to use a designated amount of their funds for downpayment assistance.

This downpayment assistance set aside will go a long way to addressing the needs of many of those who currently are unable to own their own home. For this reason, I will oppose any amendment that seeks to reduce or eliminate the money for this important initiative.

On balance, this bill deserves your support, and we recognize that it outlines the foundation of review and legislative reform on our committee agenda for next year.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ) for the purpose of a colloquy with the chairman.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) for yielding me this time.

I would like to enter into a colloquy at this point with the Chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH). After testifying last spring, Mr. Chairman, the subcommittee has been very helpful in finding creative solutions to the challenges faced by a multitude of veterans living in the Rio Grande Valley. I know the limitations on our spending this year, and I applaud the gentleman's work.

I appreciate language in the VA–HUD report to this bill that directs the VA to work with the Defense Department to share resources to serve our veterans, our active duty military, military retirees, and their dependents. The language directs the VA and DOD to submit a plan to the Committee for three demonstration sites through which to integrate health care resources and reduce the burden on veterans.

I would like to propose that a hospital in South Texas, which is at the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, be considered as a prospective site for just such a demonstration to help our veterans. I know that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON), my good friend, has actually traveled to South Texas and looked at the facility with this in mind. There is room in the hospital and open beds that could be used to tend to the specialty care and the needs of our veterans.

I am grateful for a recent meeting with Veterans Secretary Anthony Principi in which we had a very good discussion about the needs of South Texas veterans. The Secretary was very engaged and helpful with suggestions. Secretary Principi agreed to have his experts at the VA study the prospect of having one of these demonstration sites at the Naval Air Station Hospital at Corpus Christi. I am very appreciative.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH).

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his diligence on this very important issue in bringing the problem of accessible health care for the veterans of the beautiful area of South Texas that he calls home.

The VA and DOD have a great opportunity to do better in this area. I agree that the Naval Hospital in Corpus Christi would be an excellent candidate for this demonstration project, and I would encourage the VA to give this site every consideration when formulating a plan.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's help, and I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON).

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Chairman, I would also like to join in thanking the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ) for bringing his testimony before the committee.

I visited this hospital in Corpus Christi, along with a number of other members of my subcommittee, and I really believe that the available capacity at that hospital and certainly the need of the veterans in that area would lend itself to progress in this program that he wants to do in this area. I want to commend the Chairman for encouraging the VA to work with DOD at the possibility of establishing not only this project, but other similar programs, because I think it comes into the extension of quality, cost-effective care for our veterans around the country, and the gentleman's facility in Corpus Christi is a good place to demonstrate that program.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Committee again and the staff for their very diligent work.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY), the chairman of the Committee on Financial Services.

(Mr. OXLEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 2620. I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), the chairman of the subcommittee, and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN), the ranking member, for putting together an appropriations bill that balances all of the competing interests and programs, given the fiscal restraints that we are under.

As the chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, the housing programs administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development fall under our jurisdiction. To date, the committee has held at least nine housing program and oversight hearings to explore how to make these programs models of efficiency and expand housing opportunities for everyone.

What the hearings reveal is that we are facing a housing crisis. In some areas, that crisis is one of availability of housing, while in others, it is affordability, with low-income families paying more than 50 percent of their monthly income for housing. In other cases, it has been poor management of public and private resources and, indeed, our committee plans to look into that.

I applaud the committee on their work. For example, the HOME program is increased by some $200 million to accommodate the President's request. This new initiative will expand the homeownership dream, particularly for low-income, first-time home buyers. While the overall homeownership rate is 68 percent, we have lots of work to do in our minority and disabled communities to foster this American dream. I will oppose any amendments that diminish the Downpayment Initiative incorporated in the HOME program.

I do want to point out to my colleagues that there will be some amendments today related to the elimination of the Public Housing Drug Elimination Grant Program. As I understand, this program is duplicative and that the Public Housing Authorities already have existing authority to provide crime-fighting initiatives through the operating fund. H.R. 2620 increases the PHA operating subsidy to 8.1 percent to allow flexibility to do crime-fighting initiatives and other activities. Moreover, the Drug Elimination Program experienced many abuses, including HUD's approval to allow PHAs to use funds for ''creative wellness'' programs that teach residents to surround themselves with colored gemstones and incense; and I am not making this up, Mr. Chairman, to the tune of $800,000; for occasions and trips, and for controversial gun buy-back programs.

I am also concerned that there is $397 million of unspent funds, some dating back to as far as fiscal year 1997. I support the Administration's proposal to eliminate duplicate programs.

While I understand that there will always be more need than resources, it is important that Congress act in a fiscally prudent manner that balances the housing program investments made by the taxpayer with the legitimate needs of those citizens who are not finding adequate resources in the private sector. The Committee on Financial Services, including the Housing Subcommittee chaired by Representative MARGE ROUKEMA, looks forward to working through the policy details that will ensure an improved housing delivery service.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), a distinguished and hard-working member of the subcommittee.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, let me also thank the ranking member and the chairman of the subcommittee for their hard work.

I have a number of concerns about the bill, even though I am generally supportive. One of course is the elimination of the AmeriCorps program, and the elimination of the drug elimination fund. There is nothing controversial about gun buy-back programs in neighborhoods where people have been victimized by the illegal use of these guns. But I think that even though there are some unfortunate directions, there is a lot to be very pleased with in this bill, and I commend both the gentlemen who have had the leadership roles.

I wanted to yield a moment to the chairman, the gentleman from New York, to have a brief colloquy on the question of the reserve funds for public housing authorities.

I, along with the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), have

talked before about our concerns about the move from 2 months to 1 month. We realize that the vast majority of housing authorities have not needed a 2-month reserve, but there have been instances where, for a small percentage of housing authorities where they have had to go beyond the 1 month. I just want assurances from the chairman that he will be mindful of this and monitor and seek to ensure that HUD would have the flexibility to be responsive so that no family presently being served would in any way be jeopardized by the decision, and I think the correct decision that has been made, which is to roll the reserve back to a 1-month status.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FATTAH. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, certainly, it is not the committee's intent, nor do I believe this action will have any negative impact, on the ability of Public Housing Authorities to fully utilize their vouchers. It is my understanding that less than $46 million of the $1.3 billion in reserve funding was drawn down last year.

I assure the gentleman that it is the committee's intention that any PHA which exhausts its funds will be given additional funds to ensure that its legitimate needs are met. In fact, I have a letter from the Deputy Secretary which indicates that HUD will continue its long-standing policy to provide any Public Housing Authority that has exhausted its funds for legitimate needs with whatever funding is necessary to ensure that all families currently served retain their assistance.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH).

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Chairman, I would also like to thank the committee staff for this worthy bill which promotes environmental cleanup and scientific study for areas impacted by toxic pollutants.

One such area of impact is Escambia County, Florida, which is my home county. In 1998, it ranked 22nd out of 3,300 counties in America in the amount of toxic releases reported to the EPA. Now there is mounting evidence that these toxic pollutants contributed to increased illnesses in Northwest Florida. Friends, neighbors, family members, and other constituents continue to ask me questions at town hall meetings and elsewhere about whether there is a connection between buried toxins and increased levels of cancer and other diseases.

Fortunately, the University of West Florida and Escambia County Health Department have formed a partnership to find scientific answers to these troubling questions. These questions as to whether toxins buried underground decades ago are now causing sharp increases in cancer and other deadly diseases need to be answered.

Also, too often, the affected areas are occupied by some of our poorest constituents, not only in Northwest Florida, but across America.

□ 1630

That is why I am grateful that this committee has urged the EPA to study Escambia County's increased levels of illness, and it will impact not only Northwest Florida, but also affected areas across America.

That is why I encourage passage of this worthy bill, and thank the chairman and the staff for recognizing the importance of the measure.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), distinguished member on the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman, this bill is a stunning example of the social harm that is resulting from the excessive tax reduction of earlier this year.

We have widely acknowledged that there are housing crises in many parts of this country. The gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA), who chairs the subcommittee, has presided over hearing after hearing in which witnesses brought forth by both sides of the aisle have testified to that.

The very prosperity which benefits so many and is so welcome exacerbates the problem in many areas of those people in middle-income and lower-income categories who are not participating, and this bill systematically makes it worse. It is not a matter of what the subcommittee chose to do, it is a matter of the substantial reduction in resources mandated by that tax bill, which left them with no real options.

As a result of the inaction of this committee pursuant to that tax cut, the Federal Housing Administration, the FHA multifamily program, is shut down, has been shut down, and will remain shut down. When we get in the full House I will put in a letter from the homebuilders and realtors and many others lamenting this. We are not building multifamily units for middle-income people.

Public housing residents are savaged by the President's budget, and unfortunately, this bill repeats that. The public housing drug elimination program, I do not think it is duplicative to have more cops in public housing. This cuts virtually every aspect of public housing.

The President says he will leave no child behind. Who does he think lives in public housing, stuffed animals? Children live in public housing, the poorest children in this country. They are victimized by the poor resource allocation that this bill manifests.

This bill is, unfortunately, far below the minimum we should expect, and that is mandated by that irresponsible tax cut.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT).

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Chairman, this is kind of a strange institution we are operating in here, because both the chairman of the Committee and the ranking member I think have done a good job of operating within the context of what they are operating in. Unfortunately, they are playing with a budget the size of a baseball when the size of the need is, at best, the size of a softball or a soccer ball, or perhaps even a basketball or bigger.

The dramatic example of that is in the area of housing. The chairman, the Republican chairman, the Democratic ranking member, and those of us who sit on that committee have gone through hearing after hearing after hearing, and every single witness has come and said, ''We need more affordable housing in this country.'' Yet, there is nothing that will address that need in this bill.

It is not because of the ranking member or the chairman of the Committee, it is because of the big tax cut that has taken all of the money that we should have been spending on low-income housing and affordable housing and sent it back to rich people, leaving poor people in destitute housing. That is a shame for our country.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

As co-chair of the Congressional Aerospace Caucus, I strongly support maintaining America's leadership in space exploration, research, and technology. That is why I rise in support of increased funding for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Let me speak of two challenges being met by NASA in aircraft noise and engine emissions. The ultraefficient engine technology program at the NASA Glenn research center is improving local air quality around airports and reducing aviation's impact on global warming.

The program is developing revolutionary propulsion technologies for increased performance and efficiency of aircraft engines. The goal of NASA's quiet aircraft technology program is to develop technologies which will contain aircraft noise within airport boundaries.

The Federal Government is investing millions of dollars every year to insulate homes. Such sound insulation is the only feasible approach today. However, breakthrough technologies developed by NASA through the UEET program and the quiet aircraft technology program will properly address the problem by achieving significant reductions in aircraft noise and emissions.

I urge increased support for NASA. Not only will this funding enable the U.S. to remain at the forefront of space technology, but it will serve to give much-needed relief to our constituents who live near airports.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, there have been a number of the speakers who have commented on HUD funding. I would just like to respond briefly on a couple of points.

First of all, we, unlike the Senate, increased Section 8 housing vouchers. We put, I believe, 34,000 new housing vouchers in. Eight thousand of those are specifically for people with disabilities. I think that it is the subcommittee stepping up to the plate and dealing with an issue that we have not fully dealt with in the past. The Senate provided no new Section 8 housing vouchers, so I think the House did an excellent job there.

We also increased operating expenses for the public housing authorities across the land by 8 percent. That is a very, very substantial increase.

Although we have a reduced amount of funding in the capital budget, I would remind my colleagues, there is $8 billion in the capital expenses pipeline for public housing authorities across the nation. That is $8 billion that is appropriated but unallocated to a specific project, and unspent.

We would urge those public housing authorities to move forward and allocate those funds toward a project. Otherwise, they will lose those funds, and we will assign them to public housing authorities that are spending their funds in a timely way.

The problem is, we are appropriating these monies and they are not taking care of their housing code violations, they are not taking care of the hazards that people living in public housing have to deal with every day. So it is our responsibility as a Congress to make sure those public housing authorities spend that money.

Lastly, the level of funding that we have provided is exactly what the Clinton administration asked for for the past 3 years. So to say that we did not do our job for HUD, Members can say that, but it is tougher to make the case because the facts I think would argue otherwise.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER).

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for yielding time to me.

Mr. Chairman, I add my voice to those of my colleagues on this side of the aisle who have said there are stunning examples in this bill of how the tax cut has forced us into insufficient funding for important programs. I join everybody who has spoken in thanking the Chair and the ranking member for doing what they can with the insufficient budget they had.

Let me just add another stunning example, as my colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts said, of the social harm that has been done by insufficient funding.

We all have said we have added $1 billion to the health care for our veterans in this budget. That is true. But $1 billion, given the inflationary cost of health care in this Nation, barely keeps up with that inflation; $1 billion barely keeps up with the inflation. How do we make up for all the years that we have not granted sufficient funding to our Nation's veterans?

Of all people, these are the folks who we should take care of before we declare a surplus, before we give a tax cut to the wealthiest 1 percent of our Nation. It is our veterans who have made this Nation the prosperous one it is. Yet, they have come last, again.

The so-called Independent budget that is put out by the veterans service organizations of this Nation, virtually every single veterans' organization has contributed to this independent budget, they think another $1.7 billion is necessary for the health care for our Nation's veterans to keep up with inflation and to deal with problems such as Hepatitis C, with problems of our aging veteran population, with bringing down the incredible 5 months and 8 months and year-long waiting times for specialty doctors.

So I will be proposing an amendment, when we get to that stage in the bill, to give $1.7 billion extra. We have emergency funding in this bill now. I would hope that this House would agree with me that the funding for our veterans is an emergency, that we ought to declare our support for our Nation's veterans and provide this level of funding.

There will be amendments to do that. There will be amendments to increase the medical research budget, to increase the budget to fight and treat Hepatitis C victims, and there will be amendments to give health care to the 75,000 Filipino veterans of World War II, one-third of them citizens of this Nation, and the others living in the Philippines who have contributed to our Nation's victory in World War II. It is time that we supported them.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON).

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague for yielding time to me.

I want to praise both the chairman and the ranking member of this subcommittee for their outstanding work in a very difficult budget environment. I know the tough decisions they had to make were not easy, and I support the effort they have put forth.

I want to speak about one very small part of this bill we are going to be voting on today that impacts one very large group of people in America.

We talked about the FEMA budget and how we need to help resolve those problems created by disasters and reimburse towns and cities for the expenses they have lost, the debts they have in incurred. But we have not heard anything about FEMA's commitment to the 1.2 million men and women in this country who are the fire and EMS personnel.

Under the chairman's leadership, with the strong support of the full committee chairman, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), this past year the Congress for the first time established a grant program to support the Nation's domestic defenders. The $100 million that was allocated was requested by 30,000 fire and EMS departments across this country to the tune of $2.9 billion. We will only be able to fund a very small portion of that request.

I am pleased that this bill has an additional $100 million, and I am going to ask at a later point in time, when I offer an amendment, that my colleagues and the leadership of this subcommittee support the Senate position, which is $150 million.

We talk about the needs that we have in this bill, but Mr. Chairman, each year 100, on average, fire and EMS personnel die in the line of duty protecting our communities, and 85 percent of them are volunteers. The right thing for us to do is to support a program that will help prevent and protect these individuals from the loss of life and injuries that they assume on a regular and annual basis.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES).

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me. I know the chairman works very hard to try and craft some legislation that would address the issues of our community.

But I am concerned about the cut in housing that has occurred in this bill, particularly the drug elimination program that was provided for public housing. In Cuyahoga County, Ohio, that will mean the cut is equal to the entire budget for the law enforcement department at the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority. For me and for my community and district, that is significant.

So I ask Members to rethink that. I ask them to realize that even though people think it is a stupid program, in fact the people who live in public housing that have had an opportunity to have drugs eliminated think it is a great program.

However, I do want to compliment the chairman and the ranking member on the work they have done for the NASA program. The NASA program in Cuyahoga County is very, very important. I want to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON), and my ranking member for seeing that NASA had an opportunity to get additional dollars.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN).

(Mr. BENTSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ 1645

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the bill for its functions that it annually funds, including funding for NASA and other issues. But in particular I want to talk about the funding for FEMA.

I strongly support the committee's decision to accept the amendment offered by my colleague, the gentleman from Houston, Texas (Mr. DELAY), to provide an additional $1.3 billion for FEMA as emergency funding. As Members know, Tropical Storm Allison dropped 40 inches of rain throughout the Houston area over a week-long period, causing damages up to about $5 billion affecting 90,000 people in Texas.

It is estimated that the damages in the Texas Medical Center in my district alone will exceed $2 billion, and it is expected with other disasters that we will far exceed what was originally budgeted and what the President originally called for. So I think this is a step in the right direction.

In fact, the other body, in their bill, has a figure up to $2 billion; and I hope that ultimately we can get there, because we know we will have other disasters in the remaining part of this year and in next year. And we will certainly need this funding so people in my district and other parts of Texas can get back on their feet.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, can the Chair advise us as to how much time is remaining in general debate?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) has 3½ minutes remaining and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL).

(Mr. HALL of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this fine bill that the chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), and the ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN), have brought to the floor.

I do not get excited about many Federal programs, but this bill contains money for two of the very best science agencies in the world, NASA and the National Science Foundation. These are programs that ultimately will result in an increased understanding of the world around us and will deliver practical benefits to the American taxpayers. It is a good bill.

Again, let me congratulate the Chair and the ranking member for their fine work, and I urge my colleagues to support the NASA funding in this bill.

It seems obvious to me that if we invest in these advanced science and engineering efforts now, when our economy is still relatively robust, we can help lay the groundwork for another generation of economic growth, which is good for all Americans.

NSF is our premier agency for support of basic research at academic institutions in the physical and biological sciences, in mathematics, and in engineering. Basic research discoveries launch new industries that bring returns to the economy far exceeding the original public investment.

The Internet, which emerged from research projects funded by the DOD and NSF, strikingly illustrates the pay-off potential of such research expenditures. In fact, over the past 50 years, half of U.S. economic productivity can be attributed to technological innovation and the science that has supported it.

Unfortunately, the simple truth is that during the 1990s we have been underinvesting in the fields of science that NSF supports.

A recent report from the National Academy of Sciences provides specific examples that make this case. The report shows that between 1993 and 1999 federal research support at academic institutions fell by 14 percent in mathematics, by 7 percent in physics, by 2 percent in chemistry, and by 12 percent in electrical engineering.

Inadequate funding for basic research in such important fields imposes a price on society, because new ideas are lost that would otherwise underpin future technological advances. Of even more importance, anemic funding of academic science and engineering research reduces the numbers of new young scientists and engineers, who constitute the essential element necessary to ensure the nation's future economic strength and security.

The bill before us provides funding growth for NSF in excess of nine percent. The increase will enable the Foundation to expand its investments in exciting, cutting-edge research initiatives, such as information technology and nanoscale science and engineering. Of course, I would like to see the budget-doubling rate of increase that was appropriated for NSF last year. But I understand the constraints the Committee faced and I believe they did a wonderful job under the circumstances.

NASA

I'd now like to turn to the bill's treatment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. I am a strong and unabashed supporter of our Nation's space program. It has delivered countless practical benefits to our citizens over the four decades since NASA was established. You only need to think about some of the things that have come from past investments in space research—including such things as worldwide satellite communications, space-based weather imagery, advanced medical diagnostic and telemetry devices, advanced materials—the list just goes on and on—to know that this has been money well spent.

I would be the first to say that we haven't been able to fund NASA as well as I would have liked over the past decade. We were trying to get the deficit under control, and NASA had to take cuts, just as other agencies had to take cuts. And I supported holding the line on NASA's spending, even though I supported its programs. However, we are in a different era and I believe it is time to increase our Federal investment in research and development. It's an investment in our future, and no agency symbolizes the future more than NASA.

This bill, I am pleased to say, takes a step in that direction. It provides an increase of more than four percent for NASA. Given the constraints facing the Committee, I appreciate the efforts of Chairman WALSH and Ranking Member MOLLOHAN to provide the additional funding.

Of particular interest to me is the fact that the bill provides $275 million for the Space Station Crew Return Vehicle, as well as additional funding for Space Station research.

I know that Members are concerned about the reported cost growth in the Space Station program. And those who know me know that I do not want to spend a single dollar more than is necessary to carry out the Federal government's programs—whether they are NASA programs or some other agency's programs. At the same time, we have to provide the resources needed to finish what we start, or we will just wind up wasting the taxpayer's money.

The International Space Station is going to be a world-class orbiting research facility if we are wiling to keep the faith and ensure that it has the capabilities successive Congresses have supported. Thus, we are going to need to invest in Space Station research facilities—and make sure that the Station can support the seven-person crew needed to carry out that research. This bill supports that vision.

I also support the additional funding provided to the Space Shuttle program. The Shuttle program is critical to our nation's exploration and use of space, and we need to ensure that it has adequate funding so that it keeps flying safely and reliably. In addition, the bill provides funding for a range of important programs in science, aeronautics, and technology.

These are programs that ultimately will result in increased understanding of the world around us and will deliver practical benefits to the American taxpayer. Again, let me congratulate the Chair and Ranking Member for their fine work, and I urge my colleagues to support the NASA funding in this bill.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I have no additional requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I have one remaining speaker.

Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time, 2 minutes, to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS).

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, what this debate is about, really, is the priorities of this country. Several months ago it was the wisdom of the President of the United States and a majority of the Members of the Congress that we were a rich enough Nation that we could afford to provide hundreds of billions of dollars to the wealthiest 1 percent of the population, people who have a minimum income of $375,000 a year. That is how rich we were. But today, when we are talking about the needs of our veterans, the men and women who put their lives on the line to defend this country, the men and women who were

wounded in action, well, guess what, today we do not have enough money to address their needs.

All over this country, including the State of Vermont, there are waiting lines for veterans to get the quality treatment that they need. There is speculation that the prescription drug program for veterans will cost veterans more money because we do not have, as a Nation, the funding available to take care of those people who made such sacrifices for this country. Hundreds of billions of dollars for tax breaks for those who do not need it but inadequate funding for our veterans.

Mr. Chairman, in my State, and again all over this country, millions of Americans are paying 50 or 60 percent or more of their limited incomes for housing. In one region after another in this country affordable housing is unattainable. Yet, once again, we apparently do not have enough money to adequately fund affordable housing in this country, so that families and children sleep out on the street and working people pay 50, 60 percent of their incomes for housing. Tax breaks for millionaires, yes; adequate funding for affordable housing, no.

And, once again, all over this country communities are struggling to make sure that the air that they breathe, the water they drink, is not polluted. Money for tax breaks, yes; money for the environment, no.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN), for joining me in this debate and a general discussion of the bill. As I said before, I think we have a good bill. I suspect that if we had $150 billion to spend, someone would stand up and say we just need more money. Last year, we provided a record increase in veterans medical care, the most ever in the history of this country in one year and we still had amendments asking for more money.

I think we have done a pretty good job of providing the resources that we need. I would remind my colleagues that back in the years of the Reagan tax cut, there was a very substantial tax cut but there was an agreement that they would cut taxes and that they would also commensurately cut spending. The tax cuts occurred, the spending cuts did not. Therefore, we wound up with very substantial budget deficits. I think that what we have done thus far this year is the right thing to do. We have had growing surpluses, we were collecting more money than the government needed to operate, and if the money was left there, it would have been spent. So the President proposed a tax cut that was supported by both the House, and the Senate, in very large numbers, and signed by the President. It is now law and the money is being mailed out to the taxpayers who were overpaying.

So we have to now take care of the spending part, which is really what this bill is about. It is spending priorities. We have close to $110 billion in this bill. Some of it is at our discretion, about $85 billion. I think we have done the best we could. I think we have met the priorities of the country.

We have increased veterans medical care by $4 billion in the last 3 years, if this bill passes. We have provided for the protection of the environment. We have provided for emergency relief, disaster relief for emergency victims, and we have provided for the housing of our Nation. I think we have made some difficult choices, but we have made wise choices. And I think that the people who pay the taxes would accept the fact that we have done our level best.

So I submit to my colleagues in closing the debate with my feeling that we have done the very best that we could.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I would like to comment on H.R. 2620, VA-HUD-Independent Agencies appropriations for FY 2002. I intend to offer several amendments to this legislation to address my concerns regarding affordable housing and support of our only national community service program.

This bill appropriates $112.7 billion for programs and activities of the Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) departments, and for independent agencies. The independent agencies included under this appropriations measure include the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA).

The total appropriation in the bill is $7.2 billion (7%) more than FY 2001 funding and $2.1 billion (2%) more than the administration's request. On an adjusted basis (i.e., after certain official CBO budget scorekeeping adjustments have been made), the bill provides $112.6 billion—$7.5 billion more than the FY 2001 level but $2.3 billion less than requested.

As the founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, and congressional representative from the 18th Congressional District of Texas I have a strong interest in the well being of our nation's children and their families. I would like to offer the following amendments for the committee's consideration as it prepares the rule for consideration of this important legislation.

This year has been very difficult for the residents of Harris County and the City of Houston with the devastation caused by flooding as a result of Tropical Storm Allison. Although words cannot even begin to describe adequately the destruction that Houston and its surrounding areas, I will attempt to describe for you some of havoc that the storm has wreaked. The more than three feet of rain that fell on the Houston area beginning June 6 has caused at least 23 deaths in the Houston area and as many as fifty deaths in six states. Over 10,000 people have been left at least temporarily homeless during the flooding, many with no immediate hope of returning to their homes. More than 56,000 residents in 30 counties have registered for federal disaster assistance. Over 3000 homes have been destroyed, over 43,000 damaged. The damage estimates in Harris County, Texas alone are $4.88 billion and may yet increase. As to housing needs because of the flood, I will offer amendments to increase the housing funds to assist in rebuilding disaster-stricken homes.

Some of the most hard hit areas include the University of Houston, Texas Southern University, and the Kashmere Gardens neighborhood, a Houston enclave that is predominantly low income and possesses the fewest resources needed to bounce back from this once in a lifetime event.

However, I want to take particular note to some of the greatest damage to our city, which occurred at Texas Medical Center, because what has occurred affects us not just locally, or even just in Texas, but nationally. The Texas Medical Center, home to some forty medical institutions, is the largest medical center in the world. Globally renowned medical care and research takes place there. The flood has decimated these preeminent health institutions.

The flood has also damaged educational institutions. The University of Houston estimates that the damage to that institution is $250 million, in addition several schools in the North Forest Independent School District were also damaged.

Houston will recover, but to what extent and over what period of time remains to be answered, by the federal government's commitment to residents of that area. Therefore I support the effort to add $1.3 billion to FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund. I ask my colleagues to support this needed funding to assist in all the existing disaster declarations.

Assistance for residents in and around Houston has come from many quarters. I am particularly grateful for the assistance provided by AmeriCorps Volunteers, who were directed to the Houston area by the Corporation of National and Community Service. The Corporation's three major service initiatives are AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps.

Over 200 AmeriCorps members from four regional campuses responded to a call-up from the American Red Cross to assist victims of Tropical Storm Allison in Texas and Louisiana. The members are serving as first-line family assistance representatives, helping families to receive immediate aid and to identify each family's long term needs. The corps members are also operating emergency assistance shelters, working in soup kitchens, and delivering meals to people affected by the flooding. Additionally, Spanish speaking members are helping translate emergency assistance forms for people who don't speak English. The members are working in ten emergency assistance shelters in the Houston, TX, vicinity and three shelters around Baton Rouge, LA.

Overall, the storm caused upwards of $4.88 billion in damage to Houston and surrounding Harris County. Over 20,000 homes were damaged by the flooding as the storm dumped over 36 inches of rain in some areas with some houses reporting over seven feet of water in them.

It is unfortunate that the Appropriations Committee zeroed out the account for the Community Development Fund, when the administration requested $411 million in funding for FY 2002. My amendment would restore the program and allow them to continue their work on the behalf of communities throughout the United States.

AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps, engages more than 40,000 Americans in intensive, results-driven service each year. We're

teaching children to read, making neighborhoods safer, building affordable homes, and responding to natural disasters through more than 1000 projects. Most AmeriCorps members are selected by and serve with projects like Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross, and Boys and Girls Clubs, and many more local and national organizations. Others serve in AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) and AmeriCorps*NCCC (the National Civilian Community Corps). After their term of service, AmeriCorps members receive education awards to help finance college or pay back student loans.

AmeriCorps is a win-win program that I hope the rule for this legislation will allow it to continue in its work to help make America a better place to live. Homelessness in America continues to be a problem that seems to lack a broad commitment to see and end to this blight on the American Dream. Attempting to attribute homelessness to any one cause is difficult and misleading. More often than not, it is a combination of factors that culminates in homelessness. Sometimes these factors are not observable or identifiable even to those who experience them first hand (Wright, Rubin and Devine, 1998). For example, lack of affordable housing is a factor repeatedly cited as contributing to homelessness (Hertzberg, 1992; Johnson, 1994; Metraux and Culhane, 1999; National Coalition for the Homeless, 1999–F). However, lack of affordable housing is often representative of a collectivity of other problems. Other key factors include the inability to earn a living wage, poverty, welfare reform, unemployment and/or domestic violence that can combine to form a situation in which even the most basic housing is not affordable.

The support that AmeriCorps volunteers provided to Houston area residences must be supported by funds from the federal government in allowing families have homes to live in after the damaged caused by Tropical Storm Allison. I have an amendment that increases funds for HUD's Community Development Block Grant Program to be used as matching funds for home repair and buyout for Harris County and the City of Houston citizens who have been displaced by Tropical Storm Allison.

Rather than speak in terms of cause, we must focus on the factors that contribute to the alarming numbers of persons who are homeless. Among the leading risk factors associated with homelessness, the following factors are paramount: Lack of affordable/low-income housing; poverty; welfare reform; Lack of a living wage; mental illness; substance abuse; domestic violence; and lack of affordable health care. I for one do not want to add to this list; natural disasters as a cause of homelessness should this Congress fail to act.

Another key area of this legislation's appropriations provides funding to our nation's aerospace effort. The residents of the Houston Congressional District, which I serve, are located near the Johnson Space Center, which manages human space flight missions as part of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration was created by the National Space Act of 1958, after the success launch of the world's first man made satellite by the Soviet Union. NASA is charged with the responsibility of conducting space and aeronautics research, development, flight activity designed to ensure and maintain U.S. preeminence in space and aeronautical endeavors.

The only real threat to date present to our nation's leadership in space is right here on Earth in the determination of some Members to see an end to this leadership.

The principal mission of the space station is to establish a permanent human presence in space to perform research in a near-zero gravity environment. The space station is the largest, most technologically complex space program ever undertaken. Requiring more than 40 space shuttle flights to complete, the space station will be approximately the size of a football field, weight nearly 1 million pounds, and have an interior volume comparable to two 747 aircraft. The space station will serve as a platform for a range of research activities in biology, physics, and materials science, as well as for Earth and astronomical observations. The experience gained using the space station will provide information to support decisions about future human exploration missions. In addition, it is hoped that the space station will attract a substantial number of commercial ventures, and that an increasing fraction of the space station operational costs will be covered by the private sector.

Our ability to reach for the stars is another priority, which will ensure that America remains the preeminent country for space exploration. Last year it was difficult to see NASA's budget cut and I support every effort to increase funding during the FY 2001 appropriations process. After garnering support for increased funding for General Science, Space and Technology, this year's budget is $1 billion above last year's appropriation. I am thankful for the hard work done in restoring and increasing NASA's funding.

I will vigorously oppose any attempt to cut funds from NASA's International Space Station budget or related accounts. NASA has become an easy target over the last few years only because our dominance of space exploration has not been challenged. However, I would like to remind my colleagues that this circumstance could change. For this reason, and the important medical and scientific breakthroughs that could be achieve by the science conducted aboard the space station I urge my colleagues to reject all attempts to decrease funding to NASA.

I would like for my colleagues as we amend this appropriations measure, that we keep our eyes on the long view and not the short term.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2620, the FY 2002 VA–HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations bill because the funding level in the bill is woefully disappointing in the areas of veterans medical care and public housing programs that serve our country's most vulnerable citizens and families.

Mr. Chairman, the funding shortfalls in this bill, in my opinion, is totally unnecessary. We have the resources in this country to take care of our veterans as well as to provide adequate housing for the poor, the elderly and the disabled. But because my colleagues on the other side of the isle thought it more important to pass a $1.3 trillion tax cut.

I made a request to the subcommittee, which was unfortunately not funded, to assist the Virgin Islands in replacing and upgrading our wastewater and sewage treatment facilities. The government of the Virgin Islands is under EPA mandate to replace or upgrade significant components of our wastewater infrastructure to eliminate constant bypass discharges of wastes in violation of the Clean Water Act. In addition to the Clean Water Act concerns, the constant discharge of raw sewage on our streets and in our beaches are threatening the quality of life of Virgin Islanders as well as, our fragile Tourism economy.

Because my community continues to be plagued by this crisis, I will continue to seek the assistance of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee to explore the possibility that some assistance could be provided to my district to deal with this problem.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, this Member rises today to express his support for H.R. 2620, the VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for FY2002. First, this Member would like to thank the distinguished gentleman from New York, the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies from New York (Mr. WALSH), the distinguished gentleman from West Virginia, the ranking member of the subcommittee (Mr. MOLLOHAN), and all members of the subcommittee for the work they did under the tight 302(b) allocation.

This Member would like to focus his remarks on the following four areas: Section 8 housing, Section 184 Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Fund Program, and the Community Development Fund-Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

SECTION 8 HOUSING

First, this Member is supportive of the treatment of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 housing contracts. The legislation provides $15.7 billion to fully fund the renewal of all Section 8 housing assistance contracts and it provides $197.2 million to fund 34,000 new Section 8 vouchers.

SECTION 184 INDIAN HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE FUND PROGRAM

Second, this Member supports the $6 million appropriation for the (HUD) Section 184, American Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Program, which is the same as the Administration's request. This Member created the Section 184 program in consultation with a range of Indian housing specialists. The Section 184 program appears to be an excellent new program which is providing privately financed homes through a Government guarantee program for Indian families who are otherwise unable to secure conventional financing due to the trust status of Indian reservation land. The above appropriations should support loan guarantees totaling approximately $72 million which should assist an estimated 20,000 families.

OFFICE OF RURAL HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Third, this Member would like to specifically commend the Subcommittee for eliminating duplicative efforts of the Federal Government in rural housing and economic development. Unlike FY2002 and FY2001, this bill does not fund the Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development within the Department of Housing and Urban Development for FY2002. In fact, this Member testified before the VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee in opposition to HUD's duplicative efforts in rural housing.

As a long-term advocate of rural housing during his tenure in the House, this Member believes that we need to be careful of duplication in the efforts of the Federal Government in rural housing and economic development. In the past, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) through their Rural Development offices has successfully implemented numerous rural housing and economic development programs. As a result, this Member disagrees with HUD's efforts to duplicate USDA Rural Development staff.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND (CDBG)

Lastly, this Member would like to emphasize a concern about the VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies appropriations bill which in large part results from budgetary restraints. The Community Development Fund, which includes the CDBG program, is provided $4.8 billion, which is $255.6 million less than the fiscal year 2001 level. This reduction is of substantial concern to this Member. Indeed the CDBG program has been a model of local-Federal partnership.

The CDBG program not only is valuable to the larger entitlement cities, but it also gives assistance to those communities under 50,000 through state administering agencies. It is a Federal Government program with minimal overhead and bureaucracy. Moreover, CDBG has provided invaluable dollars to cities and rural communities for such things as affordable housing, public infrastructure, and economic development.

In conclusion, because of the necessity to fund important housing and community development programs, this Member would encourage his colleagues to support H.R. 2620, the VA, HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the VA-HUD appropriations bill.

This bill funds NASA and keeps our nation's leadership in human space exploration on track.

I am particularly pleased that the bill increases funding for the space station so that a crew return vehicle can be built. This critical component will enhance on-orbit research activities by allowing for a crew of six astronauts.

Also, I support the funds provided for the space shuttle program. Despite a flat budget, the shuttle program is more efficient and safer than ever.

The Shuttle program is critical to our nation's exploration and discovery of space. Since the shuttle will have to fly until at least 2012 to meet our nation's human space flight goals, we must ensure that the program is properly funded to include necessary vehicle upgrades and ensure that we have the necessary infrastructure to support human space flight.

Earlier this year, the shuttle program celebrated its 20th anniversary and its 100th flight. We must ensure that the shuttle remains a safe and reliable vehicle in space for the next decade and beyond.

This bill takes us in that direction.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I want to commend the chairman and ranking minority member of the VA/HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee, Mr. WALSH, the gentleman from New York, and Mr. MOLLOHAN, the gentleman from West Virginia, for producing a bill that will ensure that the National Science Foundation (NSF) stays at the forefront of innovation.

For fiscal year 2002, H.R. 2620 provides $4.8 billion in funding for NSF, an increase of 9.3 percent over the fiscal year 2001 appropriation. Specifically, the bill provides about $3.6 billion for research, $135 million for research equipment and construction, and $885 million for education and human resources.

NSF is the government's premier science agency. It supports cutting-edge research to answer fundamental questions within and across scientific disciplines. Often the potential for failure is as great as that for success. But by encouraging such risks, NSF has helped fuel new industries and jobs that have propelled economic prosperity and changed the way we live.

Maintaining the Nation's leadership in science will require keeping open the pipeline of new ideas and innovations that flow from fundamental research. Although the private sector provides most of the research funding, which is expected to top $180 billion this year, its spending focuses largely on applied research with a near-term payoff. The Federal Government, therefore, has a significant role to play in supporting the long-term research the private sector needs but has little incentive to pursue.

We also need to increase the pool of talented scientists in our universities and workforce. Today, over half the graduate students in science and math at American universities are foreign born, and we are becoming increasingly reliant on foreign workers to fill critical jobs. Further, it is estimated that by 2020, 60 percent of the jobs will require the skills only 22 percent of the workforce has today. We can and must do better.

NSF is the Federal Government's only agency dedicated to the support of education and fundamental research in all scientific disciplines from physics and math to anthropology and zoology. Today's NSF-led research in nanotechnology, advanced materials, biotechnology, and information technology are laying the groundwork for the technologies of the future, and in the process training the scientists, engineers, and technology entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

It is important that we continue to support NSF as part of a balanced federal research portfolio. Large science budgets at mission agencies like the National Institutes of Health, while welcome, are not enough.

As former NIH director Harold Varmus noted last year, breakthroughs in the biomedical field are increasingly dependent on breakthrough in other fields—computer science, chemistry, physics, and engineering—traditionally funded by NSF. Nowhere is this more evident than in the unraveling of the human genome, a remarkable achievement that could not have occurred without advances in computing and networking technologies funded by NSF and other agencies. This bill helps restore some balance.

I do have some concerns, however, about NSF's management of large scientific construction projects, and I will be offering an amendment to the bill that I hope will help NSF get the expertise it needs to oversee these large projects. I believe that the addition of some experienced federal project management professional would improve the institutional memory and accountability within NSF, and I look forward to working with Chairman Walsh to see that NSF gets the expertise it needs.

Mr. Chairman, during its first 50 years, NSF-supported research has improved our lives in countless ways. By further investing in basic research today, we can ensure that over the next 50 years our kids and grandkids will profit from the innovations of tomorrow.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I want to express my strong support for the House version of the VA–HUD appropriations bill, and would especially like to associate myself with the comments of Mr. DREIER and Mr. SCHIFF relating to NASA. The importance of this legislation should not be underestimated. NASA and NSF are critical investments in the science and research that drive technology and our economy.

I am concerned about the Senate's action on the Solar System Exploration program. As my colleagues have already stated, the cuts and managerial changes proposed by the Senate would be devastating to the exploration of our solar system, as well as to the men and women who have dedicated their professional lives to extending our reach into deep space.

The Senate proposes to cut $50 million from the Mars Surveyor program. The exploration of Mars is an essential element of NASA's exploration program. Because of the nature of Mars' orbit around the Sun, we can only launch missions to Mars every two years. The reduction proposed by the Senate would force NASA to choose between taking unnecessary risks to meet the current launch schedule or delaying the mission another two years. Both of these results would increase the ultimate costs of going to Mars while limiting the ability of NASA to accomplish its mission.

Similarly, the proposed transfer of the telecommunications and mission operations directorate to an industry vendor would impede rather than enhance our ability to explore the solar system. My colleague, Mr. DREIER, discussed the impact on mission operations, I would like to discuss the impact on the communications program.

It takes great skill and sophisticated equipment to communicate with a tiny spacecraft billions of miles from Earth. Despite what Hollywood might lead you to believe, it is not as simple as just phoning home. To appreciate the complexity faced by NASA, the two Voyager spacecraft, launched in the 1970s are still flying and still sending back data, but they are literally billions of miles away and transmitting a signal that is so weak, that the signal is almost undetectable. In fact, your wristwatch operates on 20 billion times more energy. However, eliminating the highly-skilled staff which operates the Deep Space Network is tantamount to turning off the array.

Finally, despite the rhetoric about efficiency, there is nothing efficient about failure. Cutting

funding and eliminating expert personnel may look good on the books today, but it will end up costing the taxpayers their space program.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the provision on the VA HUD appropriations which grants access to veterans medical facilities for Filipino World War II veterans.

General Douglas MacArthur, referring to the defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, claimed that ''no army has ever done so much with so little.'' Many of us take this as words of commendation meant for American forces defending the Philippines. However, we must not overlook the fact that a substantial portion of this defense force was composed of Filipino volunteers.

Although they fought and died alongside American comrades, these veterans were never afforded equal status. Prior to mass discharges and disbanding of their unit in 1949, these veterans were paid only a third of what regular service members received at the time. Underpaid, having been denied benefits they were promised, and lacking proper recognition, General MacArthur's words, ''no army has ever done so much with so little,'' truly depict the plight of the remaining Filipino veterans today as they did half a century ago.

Access to veterans facilities would be of great benefit to these men and it could not come at a more opportune time. The past few years have seen the numbers of these men drastically decline. Now, mostly in their 80's and of declining health, the handful of these veterans now remaining more than ever need the benefits and recognition afforded the rest of their compatriots.

This provision is not the long awaited act that would restore benefits denied by Congress to Filipino veterans who fought under the American flag during World War II. However, it would go a long way towards recognizing the service and sacrifices of these men for the benefit of the United States. In the past, this country has considered Filipinos as ''little brown brothers.'' Let us take an extra step and go a long way towards recognizing them as equals by acknowledging their service. Our ''little brown brothers'' were full partners in the struggle against Japan. Let us work towards having them become full partners in the distribution of benefits. I urge my colleagues to support this provision.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Chairman, I want to highlight the bill's science funding.

Because this is the bill that funds six different agencies, funding requests for veterans and the homeless are pitted against science programs and space exploration. Unfortunately, this is an institutional reality the members of the Appropriations Committee face every year.

Given that reality Chairman WALSH and Ranking Member MOLLOHAN have succeeded in providing additional funding for science and technology.

The National Science Foundation and NASA have received a 9 percent increase in funding and 4.5 percent increase over current year funding respectively. While some Members and members of the scientific community wanted more—this bill is a good start to proper science funding. It is noteworthy that the committee has funded more than $200 million to educate K–12 students and their teachers in math, science and technology education.

The Congress is doing the heavy lifting that the President failed to do in his budget blueprint. I am very concerned about the President's priorities when it comes to science.

It is interesting that the Bush administration has proposed to double funding (a 13.5 percent increase over current year funding) for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and it proposed a 1.3 percent increase for the National Science Foundation, 1.3 percent increase for NASA and reduced funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Science by less than 1 percent.

I do not often quote Former Speaker Newt Gingrich, but when it comes to science funding—he has it right. ''To double NIH without doubling the broad base of science means in the long run we will cripple the evolution of science, because NIH cannot, in the long run, progress beyond physics, chemistry, mathematics, etcetera.''

Recently E. Floyd Kvamme, the President's co-chairman of the Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, wrote that NSF and NASA will receive ''increases.'' ''In the case of NSF, its budget will grow 15 percent between 2000 and 2002,'' he said. That may be true. What he did not write was that that 13 percent of the increase occurred during the Clinton administration, according to the Congressional Research Service, with Bush requesting less than 2 percent under the rate of inflation.

The administration seems to be practicing fuzzy math to prop up its lack of leadership when it comes to Science and Technology.

We know that government support for science has a direct impact on innovation at universities and technology transfer in the private sector. As someone who represents Silicon Valley, my constituents and I know there is a direct link between competitiveness and innovation in science and technology.

Without adequate research and development funding by the federal government, we put our high technology companies and students at a competitive disadvantage.

The future is now. The U.S. has the opportunity to invest wisely in science and technology. Doing so keeps open the door to technological advancement. The door will slam shut without adequate research and development funding.

Earlier this year, the Senate adopted the Bond/Mikulski amendment to the budget resolution. This amendment increased current year funding to NSF by $674 million, to NASA by $518 million and to DOE's Office of Science by $469 million.

Though not included in the budget resolution conference report, I joined many of my colleagues in the House to support the science-funding goal of the Bond/Mikulski amendment as the appropriation process moves forward this year.

This bill already makes a start. Let's work with those who supported this effort in the other body earlier this year as this appropriations bill moves forward. With the support of my colleagues in the House, it is my hope that the final appropriations bill contains the science research and development increases that the Senate agreed to earlier this year.

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this bill and want to compliment my good friend and Chairman JIM WALSH for his hard work in crafting this very important appropriations bill. With this bill, the chairman and our committee worked hard to make sure that the medical needs of our veterans are met, and that their claims are processed in a timely fashion. It ensures that safe and affordable housing is provided for the low income, the elderly, and the disabled. It provides funding to make the water we drink cleaner and the air we breathe healthier. I am proud to serve on this committee which addresses these priority issues. In addition to the $1 billion increase for veterans medical care, I want to point out a few other highlights:

This bill provides the highest budget ever for the National Science Foundation at $4.8 billion. This is a 9 percent increase over last years level. Funding from NSF produces the in-depth research performed at almost every university across the country. Every single district benefits from this increase.

This bill also fully funds the renewal of all expiring section 8 housing assistance contracts, and provides 34,000 new Section 8 vouchers. These vouchers will be distributed to those most in need, and for the first time every, a portion will be designated for the disabled.

After almost a decade of being flat-lined, NASA is provided nearly $15 billion, including almost $7.6 billion for research and development. As the space station is now in successful orbit, I am pleased that this bill dedicates approximately $343 million to generate the unprecedented microgravity research the scientific community has been waiting for.

To address our environmental needs, this bill provides $1.2 billion for Clean Water State Revolving Funds, which provide grants to our communities to assist their efforts in building modern and adequate wastewater facilities.

This bill provides $2.25 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate responses to our national disasters. I am especially pleased that $404.6 million is designed for FEMA's core activities to make sure that we are prepared to properly mitigate the disasters which might strike. I would like to recognize not only the FEMA officials who are all to often called to respond, but also the state and local emergency management teams who will benefit from this funding.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I want to congratulate you and the staff again this year for crafting a well-balanced bill.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on H.R. 220, providing appropriations to the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and various independent agencies. While I have some concern about several provisions in the bill, the bill is technically consistent with the Budget Resolution and complies with the Budget Act.

H.R. 2620 provides $85.4 billion in budget authority and $88.1 billion in outlays for fiscal year 2002. The bill does not exceed the VA–HUD subcommittee's adjusted 302(b) allocation. Accordingly, the bill complies with section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, which prohibits measures that exceed the reporting subcommittee's 302(b) allocation.

This bill designates $1.3 billion in emergencies, which triggers an automatic increase in the corresponding levels in both the Budget Resolution and the statutory caps. The appropriation is for FEMA Disaster Relief Operations in response to the recent tropical storm in Houston, Texas.

It is not entirely clear that the designation is necessary because the Budget Resolution provides ample resources for emergencies. With this said, the emergency designation is clearly permitted under existing law.

H.R. 2620 also provides $4.2 billion in advanced appropriations for the Section 8 Housing Certificate Program, which will be counted against the levels established in next year's Budget Resolution. This advanced appropriation is on the list of permissible appropriations under section 201 of H. Con. Res. 84.

I am somewhat concerned about several purported ''offsets'' in this bill. The bill claims $7 million from the repeal of a provision that was already signed into law. It claims another $121 million in savings from a veterans-related provision that already passed the House. Obviously, these savings can only be used once.

As Chairman of the Budget Committee, I am obligated to report to the Congress on how the appropriations bills compare to the Budget Resolution. Under existing law, this bill is consistent with the Budget Resolution and does not violate the Budget Act.

Nevertheless, the existing process with respect to emergencies is broken and needs to be fixed. At the very least, both Congress and the President should set aside resources for emergencies and restrict the use of these resources for legitimate emergencies.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, as chairman of the House Science Committee I rise in strong support of the FY 2002 VA, HUD and Independent Agencies appropriations bill. My good friends Chairman WALSH, and Ranking Minority Member MOLLOHAN have put together a bill that is very good for science, good for the space program, good for education, and good for the environment. That's a winning combination, one that's good for America. I thank them for their leadership.

Chairman WALSH shares my belief that basic research provides the foundation for economic growth and for the tremendous advances we have made in areas like biomedical research. The appropriation for the National Science Foundation contained within this bill reflects these beliefs. And the committee is to be commended for the 9 percent increase that he provided for the Foundation.

The bill also contains funding for the National Mathematics and Science Partnerships Program that was proposed by President Bush and that is authorized by my bill—H.R. 1858—that was unanimously reported out of the Science Committee. This program will bring colleges and universities and school districts together to form partnerships to improve the quality of elementary and secondary math and science education. Funding is also included to enable elementary and secondary teachers to participate in research projects conducted at State, Federal, and university labs.

I want to particularly thank the committee for including funding for the Noyce Scholarship Program. Named for the co-founder of Intel, this program provides scholarships to talented mathematics, science, and engineering students in exchange for a commitment to teach two years for each year of scholarship. I look forward to working closely with Chairman WALSH to retain this funding as the bill goes to conference.

The chairman is also to be commended for a bill that protects and expands NASA's scientific programs in Science, Aeronautics, and Technology while striking the right balance for the space station.

This bill sends a clear signal that Congress is not going to bail NASA out for its management failures. It also makes clear that we're willing to work with the Administration to identify additional resources to improve station capabilities, if we see the right management reforms and performance improvements at NASA. With that in mind, requiring the White House Office of Management and Budget to certify that NASA is containing its costs before obligating additional funds makes a lot of sense. Moreover, we should require the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to certify that those additional funds will benefit the research effort.

Through careful fiscal management, we can ensure that the space station benefits science in the long run. The bill sets us on that path.

I particularly appreciate the committee's commitment to new space technology and its effort to bridge the gap between NASA and the Air Force. By directing additional funding into the Air Force Research Lab, the bill encourages NASA and the Air Force to pool their efforts on technologies that will benefit both agencies and the American people. Space based radar technology, for example, is vital to our national security, but also has immense applications in Earth science. A development program that reduces the cost of synthetic aperture radar technology will benefit both.

Similarly, the bistatic radar technology developed at Rome Research site has immense potential for upgrading our national launch range tracking capabilities at a low cost. By demonstrating this technology, we may finally break the logjam that has undermined our space launch competitiveness.

Let me turn for a moment to the budget for the Environmental Protection Agency. I appreciate the efforts of Chairman WALSH and his colleagues to provide a responsible budget to help meet the nation's environmental needs. On the whole, the bill is good news for EPA.

Clearly, many of us would prefer to see higher funding levels for some of the agency's programs, but the gentleman from New York has done an admirable job of balancing competing needs and working within difficult fiscal constraints.

As chairman of the Science Committee, I am particularly pleased the bill increases funding for the Science and Technology account from $640 million in the budget request to $680 million.

As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Congressional Water Infrastructure Caucus, I am pleased the bill rejects the proposed cut to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund but am disappointed it doesn't provide at least $1.35 billion for the program. I appreciate the constraints facing the chairman but would encourage the committee to find a way to fund some of the important, water infrastructure and ecosystem restoration programs, such as the new sewer overflow control grants program and the reauthorized Clean Lakes program. I hope there are opportunities down the road to target assistance for such efforts.

I would also continue to note my concern with the Superfund program. The bill provides $1.27 billion. The appropriators are doing their best under the circumstances. Congress needs to change the circumstances; comprehensive reform and, at a minimum, a reauthorization of the corporate environmental income tax—twelve one hundreds of a per cent (which expired on December 31, 1995) should be the next course of action.

Mr. Chairman, this is a good bill for science, a good bill for the space program, and a good will for the environment. It aptly illustrates the tremendous leadership provided by my friend from New York, Chairman WALSH, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will rise informally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY) assumed the Chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

The Committee resumed its sitting.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule. The amendment printed in House Report 107–164 may be offered only by a Member designated in the report and only at the appropriate point in the reading of the bill, shall be considered read, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment that he has printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2620

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Departments of Veteran Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by law (38 U.S.C. 107, chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61); pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by law (38 U.S.C. chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61; 92 Stat. 2508); and burial benefits, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of article IV of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 (50 U.S.C. App. 540 et seq.)

and for other benefits as authorized by law (38 U.S.C. 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61; 50 U.S.C. App. 540–548; 43 Stat. 122, 123; 45 Stat. 735; 76 Stat. 1198), $24,944,288,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed $17,940,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be reimbursed to ''General operating expenses'' and ''Medical care'' for necessary expenses in implementing those provisions authorized in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, and in the Veterans' Benefits Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. chapters 51, 53, and 55), the funding source for which is specifically provided as the ''Compensation and pensions'' appropriation: *Provided further*, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to ''Medical facilities revolving fund'' to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I really wanted to take this moment as we begin full consideration of this bill to thank the chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) and the ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN), for their work and the improvements that we have been able to afford the citizens of our country in this fiscal year 2002 appropriation bill for the Veterans Administration, the Housing and Urban Development Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, NASA, and the National Science Foundation.

The bill has many good points. Certainly the National Science Foundation increase, the President asked for an increase, we provided over an 8 percent increase in this budget. And even in smaller programs, like the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, which has such a fine track record in communities across our country, a respectable increase. But I have to say that in other accounts this particular bill does not have adequate funding.

Other Members have talked about HUD's housing programs, and without question the reductions in public housing modernization, decreased by 15 percent; and community development block grants, every single community in this country affected by that cut by 6 percent; and homeless assistance down by nearly 9 percent. We still have not completely solved that problem across our country. The impact on Americans as a result of this underfunding of the HUD programs will be felt from coast to coast.

The bill eliminates the popular AmeriCorps program. HUD's Rural Housing and Economic Development programs have been eliminated. Empowerment zones, Enterprise communities, and the Public Housing Drug Elimination Grant Program I will talk about in a moment.

Now, I wanted to say a word about the Environmental Protection Agency, also a reduction, and as important as the reduction, the shift in responsibility for enforcement to the States. In the case of Ohio, my home State, The Washington Post reported just a couple weeks ago ''Nowhere are the problems cited by the EPA studies of State enforcement performance more in evidence than Ohio where so much backlog remains. During the past 2 years, 72 percent of Ohio's plants and refineries had violations of the Clean Water Act, a third of the plants were in violation of the Clean Air Act, and over a third of the factories were found to be operating with expired permits required under the Clean Water Act.''

So we have to be conscious that as this bill is considered, there are serious imperfections that are contained within it.

Others have referenced the veterans portion of the budget. We hear lots about the greatest generation; books have been written, movies, and we are about to build the World War II memorial, one of the most important pieces of legislation I have ever sponsored here in this Congress. Yet the Veterans Medical Care budget, the budget that will actually go to care for those that the Nation says it cares so very much about, underfunded by nearly $.5 billion over what the administration needs in order to accommodate the lines that are out there in hospital after hospital.

So as the bill moves forward, I really do look forward to working with the chairman and the ranking member to perfect it.

And I just wanted to say a word about the amendment I will be offering later this afternoon, because I heard my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY), come to the floor a little earlier and speak against the drug elimination program in public housing, and my friend and colleague from Ohio is a former FBI officer.

I was very surprised to hear that. But I have to tell him that perhaps the part of Ohio he represents is not like my own. But his position is going to hurt Cincinnati, it will hurt Dayton, it is going to hurt Toledo, it is going to hurt Steubenville, and it is going to hurt Lima, because in fact the drug elimination program goes to the very heart of communities where drug lords and this drug trade took control of people living under the most vulnerable of circumstances.

The local policing forces, sometimes out of sheer racism and sometimes out of the fact that when they wore a uniform they were not accepted inside those projects, did not patrol the projects. My colleagues can go across this country, in places like Chicago, where I personally visited, and see people on the roofs with repeating shotguns, with repeating rifles, at a certain time of day. If a drug deal was coming down on the street, a mother could not leave that project and go buy a bottle of milk because the drug lords were controlling the projects. Now, if we have not lived under that situation, we cannot appreciate what it really means.

But the amendment I will be offering will be to continue the drug elimination program in public housing at a level of $175 million, unlike this bill which zeros it out. And, in fact, our amendment will actually cut the program by nearly half from what was existing last year.

But to do this across America is truly a serious mistake.

□ 1700

Crime has been going down in our country. Why should we do any less than President Reagan, the first President Bush and President Clinton?

Mr. Chairman, I again thank the chairman and ranking member and look forward to perfecting this bill as it moves along.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by law (38 U.S.C. chapters 21, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, 39, 51, 53, 55, and 61), $2,135,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, other than under subsection (a)(1), (2), (5) and (11) of that section, shall be charged to this account.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen's indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 19; 70 Stat. 887; 72 Stat. 487, $26,200,000, to remain available until expended.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 37, as amended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided further*, That during fiscal year 2002, within the resources available, not to exceed $300,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, $164,497,000, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for ''General operating expenses''.

EDUCATION LOAN FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct loans, $1,000, as authorized by 38 U.S.C. 3698, as amended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed $3,400.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, $64,000, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for ''General operating expenses''.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct loans, $72,000, as authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 31, as amended:

Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed $3,301,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, $274,000, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for ''General operating expenses''.

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 37, subchapter V, as amended, $544,000, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for ''General operating expenses''.

GUARANTEED TRANSITIONAL HOUSING LOANS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the administrative expenses to carry out the guaranteed transitional housing loan program authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 37, subchapter VI, not to exceed $750,000 of the amounts appropriated by this Act for ''General operating expenses'' and ''Medical care'' may be expended.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MEDICAL CARE

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, and domiciliary facilities; for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the department; and furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; funeral, burial, and other expenses incidental thereto for beneficiaries receiving care in the department; administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the department; oversight, engineering and architectural activities not charged to project cost; repairing, altering, improving or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902; aid to State homes as authorized by 38 U.S.C. 1741; administrative and legal expenses of the department for collecting and recovering amounts owed the department as authorized under 38 U.S.C. chapter 17, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq., $21,281,587,000, plus reimbursements: *Provided*, That of the funds made available under this heading, $900,000,000 is for the equipment and land and structures object classifications only, which amount shall not become available for obligation until August 1, 2002, and shall remain available until September 30, 2003: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed $500,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2003: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed $3,000,000,000 shall be available for operations and maintenance expenses of medical facilities: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct by contract a program of recovery audits for the fee basis and other medical services contracts with respect to payments for hospital care; and, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302(b), amounts collected, by setoff or otherwise, as the result of such audits shall be available, without fiscal year limitation, for the purposes for which funds are appropriated under this heading and the purposes of paying a contractor a percent of the amount collected as a result of an audit carried out by the contractor: *Provided further*, That all amounts so collected under the preceding proviso with respect to a designated health care region (as that term is defined in 38 U.S.C. 1729A(d)(2)) shall be allocated, net of payments to the contractor, to that region.

AMENDMENTS OFFERED BY MR. OBEY

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I offer a series of amendments, and I ask unanimous consent they be considered en bloc.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will report the amendments.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendments offered by Mr. OBEY:

General Provisions

At the end of the bill, insert the following new section:

''SEC. 427. Paragraph (2) of section 1(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to reductions in rates after June 30, 2001), is amended by adding after the table the following:

''In the case of taxable years beginning during calendar year 2002, the preceding table shall be applied by substituting '39.1%' for '38.6%'.''

Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration

In the paragraph ''Medical Care'', strike ''$21,281,587,000'' and insert ''$21,581,587,000'' in lieu thereof.

Department of Housing and Urban Development, Public Housing Capital Fund

In the paragraph entitled ''Public Housing Capital Fund'', strike ''$2,555,000,000'' and insert ''$2,837,000,000'' in lieu thereof.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

After the paragraph entitled ''homeless Assistance Grants: insert the following new section:

''SHELTER PLUS CARE RENEWALS

''For the renewal on an annual basis or amendment of contracts funded under the Shelter Plus Care program, as authorized under subtitle F of Title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, $100,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That each Shelter Plus Care project with an expiring contract shall be eligible for renewal only if the project is determined to be needed under the applicable continuum of care and meets appropriate program requirements and financial standards, as determined by the Secretary.''

Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Programs and Management

In the paragraph entitled ''Environmental Programs and Management'', strike ''$2,014,799,000'' and insert ''$2,021,799,000'' in lieu thereof.

At the end of the paragraph entitled ''Environmental Programs and Management'', insert:

'': *Provided further*, That the on-board staffing level of the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance shall be maintained at not less than the level authorized for this Office as of December 31, 2000''

Corporation for National and Community Service

Strike the paragraph following the center head entitled ''National and Community Service Programs, Operating Expenses'' and insert the following new section:

''(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for the Corporation for National and Community Service (the ''Corporation'') in carrying out programs, activities, and initiatives under the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (the ''Act'') (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.), $311,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003: *Provided*, That not more than $50,000,000, to remain available without fiscal year limitation, shall be transferred to the National Service Trust account for educational awards authorized under subtitle D of title I of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12601 et seq.).

Mr. OBEY (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendments be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order against the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman reserves a point of order.

Is there objection to consideration on the amendments en bloc?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that debate on this amendment and any amendment thereto be limited to 50 minutes to be equally divided and controlled by the proponent, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), and myself, the opponent.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH).

Mr. Chairman, let me explain what this amendment is all about.

I served in the legislature with a fellow by the name of Harvey Dueholm, who was a retired farmer, probably the single best legislator I ever knew. He had a number of pithy observations of life and politics in this country. One of the things he said regularly is that one of the problems with this country is all that too often the poor and the rich get the same amount of ice, but the poor get theirs in the wintertime.

That is certainly the case with respect to the tax bill which this Congress passed a number of weeks ago. To correct that, I am trying to offer this amendment today along with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) and let me explain what it is we are trying to do.

When the House voted on the tax bill, it voted on it separately before we even had a budget. That meant that, in effect, Members of this House were being shielded from the responsibility to make public choices about the tradeoffs that were wrapped into that tax bill.

We were never allowed the opportunity to explain in explicit terms what the size of that tax bill meant in terms of our ability to, for instance, deal with long-term shortfalls in Social

Security, to deal with long-term shortfalls in Medicare, to deal with problems of short-funding in education or any other field.

I make no apology for the fact that I believe that it is more important for us to shore up Social Security than it is for us to give people a $300 refund check.

I make no apology for my belief that it is more important for us to shore up Medicare long term than to provide a $53,000 tax cut to the wealthiest 1 percent of people in this country.

I make no apology for the fact that I oppose the idea that we ought to cut in half the rate of increase we have had in Federal support for education over the past 5 years.

I make no apology for my belief that veterans are not receiving the health care they need in this country.

I make no apology for my concern about the lack of adequate shelter for some of the poorest children in this country.

I make no apology for the belief that we ought to have stronger environmental enforcement and that we ought to be willing to pay for it.

I think all of those priorities are a whale of a lot more important than providing the tax cut that we have provided to the wealthiest 1 percent of people in our society who make more than $330,000 a year.

So what this amendment tries to do is to make this Congress finally make specific choices about specific tax cuts versus specific funding programs. It is my belief that there is nothing wrong with cutting in half the tax cut that goes to people who make more than $330,000 a year so that we will have some money left on the table to provide what this amendment tries to provide, which is a $300 million increase in funding for veterans' health care and the various increases that I described previously in my statement to this House.

We are going to be providing well over $300 million in additional funds under this amendment for housing. We are going to be providing funds for Federal EPA enforcement to restore the positions that were cut for Federal enforcement. We are going to be restoring partially the funding for the Corporation for National Service. We pay for that by simply cutting in half the tax cut that was provided to the wealthiest 1 percent of people in this society.

Mr. Chairman, I bet that at least two-thirds of the people in that top 1 percent, if asked, would say that they would rather that we provide adequate housing and adequate health care for veterans than to keep whole their newfound tax bonanza.

I have a sign on the wall of my office, and every time a group comes in asking for money, which is about 18 times a day, before they sit down and talk about what they want out of Uncle Sam, I make them read the sign on the wall which says this: ''What is there that you want me to do for somebody else that is more important than whatever it is you are going to ask me to do for you today?''

Mr. Chairman, I believe in a Judeo-Christian society. That is the fundamental question we ought to be asking ourselves. I believe if we ask that question of the folks who came in to lobby for those tax cuts for the most privileged people in this society that a whole lot of them would say, ''We do not mind if you scaled our tax cut back just a little bit so you can provide to the least fortunate people in society or, in the case of veterans, to the people who decided that they would be willing to risk everything for somebody else.''

Mr. Chairman, that is the choice that we are attempting to have the House make here today. I recognize that it is an unusual procedure because this is not in the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, but I think doing the right thing is more important than jurisdictional dunghills.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) continue to reserve his point of order?

Mr. WALSH. I do, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from New York rise in opposition to the amendment?

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition; and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to join with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) in cosponsoring the amendment he is offering.

The Obey-Evans amendment will provide substantial increased funding for veterans' medical care and other important programs.

I urge my colleagues to support the Obey-Evans amendment to address the significant shortfalls in funding for veterans' health care in the committee's bill.

I believe a $1.2 billion increase in veterans' medical care funding is fully justified. I have prepared an amendment to provide this increase.

There are many challenges that the VA will face in the near future. The VA must continue to honor its commitment to our most vulnerable veterans with the most serious disabilities. It must meet its growing infrastructure needs. Impending clinical staff shortages, including nurses, the VA's largest employee group, and the rising cost of gasoline plaguing areas around the country are among those challenges.

It is clear, however, that this House is not prepared to approve this $1.2 billion increase today. An increase that will be provided by the Obey-Evans amendment is needed. Long before President George Bush promised Americans a tax cut, we made a commitment to honor those who served and defended this Nation in its most dire hours. It is now our duty to make sure that our obligations are paid back to them. Our amendment will do this.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I continue to reserve my point of order.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is the same amendment that the gentleman from Wisconsin offered in the full committee. It was considered out of order in the full committee, and he is without question on message. He stays on message. I recognize that. I congratulate him for that, but I think the message is wrong.

The message should be that the President had an agenda to bring to the Congress. He brought it to the Congress. We had debate on whether or not the American taxpayer was paying too much money. The debate was resolved by Congress. The House and Senate voted to cut the tax rates that individual taxpayers pay. The people who pay the most money got the largest tax cut, the people who pay the least amount of taxes got the least tax cut, and those who do not pay taxes did not get any tax cut. I think that is pretty logical, and people can understand that.

Mr. Chairman, what we are charged with doing today is the Congress's primary role, which is creating a budget and spending taxpayers' money. We have an allocation. It is the allocation provided to us by the budget resolution and the Committee on the Budget in consultation with the Committee on Appropriations which handed down our allocation, and we have to live with that. That is our allocation.

Mr. Chairman, we have provided funds for almost every one of the areas that the gentleman would otherwise supplement funds, and we think that the funding is right.

I will close by saying I think this is the right formula for spending in this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

□ 1715

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Obey-Evans amendment. I do so because some of us said several months ago when we were debating the budget that we knew we were going to get to the point when we started talking about appropriations, there would be the same hue and cry because we knew then that you cannot get blood out of a turnip. We knew that a big tax cut would take away the possibility of providing the resources that we needed to care of the needs of our people.

And so here we are with one of the biggest debts that we have, and that is the debt that we owe our veterans, the debt that we owe the men and women who have given the last measure of everything that they had to give. Now we

come and tell them that there is no water at the well, that there is not enough money to provide the needed services.

People in my community right now are gearing up for public hearings next week to talk about which one of our veterans hospitals will get closed. Will it be the Lakeside? Will it be the West Side? Will it be Hines? Will it be beds eliminated? Will it be mental health services that they cannot get?

And so I join with those who say if we have any responsibility, Mr. Chairman, it is the responsibility to fully fund medical services for the Veterans Administration. For those men and women who have given so much, at least we can give them a little.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve my point of order, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS).

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding time and for bringing up an amendment that gets to the heart of everything that we have been talking about in Congress for the last couple of months.

Let me begin by citing three words: priorities, priorities, priorities. In the United States today, we have by far the most unequal distribution of wealth and income of any nation on Earth. The wealthiest 1 percent of the population owns more wealth than the bottom 95 percent. The gap between the rich and the poor is growing wider. The CEOs of major corporations now earn over 500 times what their workers earn. Yet a few months ago it was the wisdom of the President of the United States and a majority of the Members of Congress that the richest 1 percent, those people who have a minimum income of $373,000 a year, need to have, over a 10-year period, hundreds of billions of dollars in tax breaks. That is what the President and the Congress said.

Some of us disagree. Some of us think that it is more important that we adequately fund education in this country so that every young person has the opportunity to succeed in this country. Some of us think that it is absurd that the average young person who graduates from college today ends up $20,000 in debt because we have cut back, over the years, Federal aid to education.

Some of us think that it is absurd that 1 week after the President signed the tax bill and the huge tax breaks for the rich, that 1 week later people on his Social Security advisory committee suddenly announced that we may have to cut back on the cost of living allowance for people on Social Security. Tax breaks for billionaires, but we do not have enough money to adequately fund Social Security.

In my State and all over this country, home health care agencies are having a terrible time and have received huge cuts in taking care of some of the oldest and most frail people in this country. Visiting nurses are unable now to do the job because this Congress, several years ago, savaged Medicare. We do not have enough money to take care of the old and the frail, but we do have enough money to provide huge tax breaks for billionaires.

In the United States today, we remain alone among industrialized nations in not having a strong prescription drug benefit program for our seniors. In Vermont and all over this country, elderly people do not know how they are going to pay for their prescription drugs. They are forced to choose between food and heat and their prescription drugs. We do not have enough money to provide strong prescription drug benefits. Let us support this important amendment.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of this measure, the VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act. I urge my colleagues to support the committee's funding in this measure.

This legislation does provide $51.4 billion in funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs and that is an increase of $4.3 billion over last year's level. Included in that amount is a total of $21 billion for veterans health care. That is an increase of $1.2 billion over fiscal year 2001 levels, matching the request in the President's budget.

Mr. Chairman, as our veterans continue to age, they find themselves certainly in greater need of medical care with each passing year. While the increase for medical care does fall somewhat short of that advocated by some of the veterans service organizations in their annual budget reports, this amount is an historical increase. Moreover, it is refreshing to see the new administration demonstrate a commitment to ensuring that our veterans are going to receive adequate funding for health care. That element was sorely lacking in the prior administration which consistently submitted flat-lined budgets.

I would note, however, that unlike the last several years, some of these new funds need to find their way to the veterans networks up in the northeastern part of our country, particularly in New York. Due to the post-VERA formulas, the VISN which contains my congressional district remains the only one in the country which finds that its funding continues to be cut on an annual basis despite the increased funding nationally. That lack of funding takes place in spite of the fact that VISN 3 has a greater percentage of specialty care patients and otherwise unfunded mandates such as hepatitis C vaccinations. We have had to rely on emergency transfers by the Secretary of the VA to make up for a portion of the difference.

Given that the new chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and I share the same vision, I am concerned that the arbitrary, capricious and flat-out discriminatory policy of the last few years in distributing the funds that are available should be corrected. I am requesting that the Committee on Appropriations reconsider the VA's funding allocation formula for VISN 3.

Given that, I note that H.R. 2620 does provide a badly needed 16 percent increase for the Veterans Benefits Administration to help mitigate the backlog in veterans' claims which has now resulted in multiyear delays in getting new compensation claims approved. Our veterans have served their country when called. It is unconscionable that many now pass away while waiting for that backlog of legitimate claims to be approved.

Mr. Chairman, I commend the committee for providing $300 million for short-term repairs and improvements to our aging medical facilities that was in legislation passed by the House earlier this year, a total of $371 million for VA medical research, and over $100 million for veterans State extended-care facilities.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, this measure is sound legislation. It provides adequate funding for so many areas in need and deserves the full support of our colleagues.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN), the distinguished ranking member of the subcommittee.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. I thank the ranking member for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, when the Committee on Rules was considering the form of the rule under which we would consider this appropriations measure, the gentleman from Wisconsin sought to have this amendment made in order. Unfortunately, it was not made in order.

Despite the fact that this amendment will not be voted on, I am pleased that the gentleman has offered it and was allowed to offer it. It is important because it puts into perspective the choices that we as a Congress have to make.

Not very many months ago, Mr. Chairman, this Congress passed a $1.6 trillion tax cut. That simply means that $1.6 trillion over the next 9 or 10 years has been taken out of general revenues for this country.

This amendment looks at that reality and it looks at what section of our population most benefited from that tax cut. In fact, the top 1 percent of income earners receive about 37.6 percent of that tax cut. It is that top 1 percent that was the greatest beneficiary of that $1.6 trillion tax cut—those people who make an average of $1.1 million a year. The Obey amendment looks at that reality and then

looks at the underfunding in this bill and says that this would be a fair way to correct this underfunding. It seems proportional to calibrate that tax cut to that top 1 percent a little bit. That generates enough revenues to fund some of these terribly underfunded accounts in this bill and leaves a little bit left over for some other bills.

That is what the Obey amendment does. It takes .5 percent of the tax cut for the top income earners, which $1.3 billion (which gives you some estimation of how much money they are earning) and redirects it to some real people programs. That is a real priority and those are real choices and that is what this amendment does. It clearly identifies the problem areas in this bill.

With that $1.3 trillion, the amendment would increase funding for veterans medical care. It would increase it by $300 million. The amendment would also address the housing needs of low-income and disabled citizens. First, it would add $282 million to the public housing capital grant account, bringing that account to just over $2.8 billion, and while this remains below last year's funding, it does get it closer. Then funding would also be provided for shelter plus care grants. These grants combine low-cost housing with treatment and support services.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is a good amendment. It takes money from where it can be afforded and gives it to those who need it most. I appreciate the gentleman offering it.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY).

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for all of his hard work on this bill. I want to underscore to those listening that this is a $4 billion increase in spending in VA–HUD.

Having listened to the arguments advanced by the other side of the aisle, it now becomes clear why Vice President Gore lost Arkansas and lost Tennessee, because he decided rather than advancing the ideas that can bring us together, they decide to fight the typical class warfare argument. Tax cuts for the rich has been repeated time and time again on this floor. They keep saying that 1 percent of the wealthiest Americans are getting the biggest advantage under the tax cut. But you will notice none of those on the other side of the aisle will tell you that a person, say, earning $300,000 a year pays about $120,000 in taxes.

□ 1730

They do not tell you the burden that that person carries to fulfill the bills we are passing on the floor today. I think the gentleman from New York (Chairman WALSH) has done a phenomenal job in trying to meet the priority needs of this Nation. If you look throughout the bill you will see increasing in funding for AIDS programs, homeless programs, military and other vital missions of this country.

Now, if the other side of the aisle believes that this tax cut is such a bad idea, I urge them to rally their supporters together and get their supporters to remit their checks, their Treasury checks, back to the Treasury and allow them to spend it as they will. I doubt that one person will step forward and sign the back of their Treasury check, whether they make $100,000, $50,000 or $20,000, so it can be spent in reckless abandon on this House floor.

I know this is going to be a fight about priorities, and I know this is going to be a fight about George Bush's tax cut, but, in my heart, I believe we can do both. I believe that a family trying to fit braces on their children's teeth needs a refund. I believe that people advancing an opportunity to maybe finally take a vacation need a refund. I believe people preparing to buy a washer-dryer could use a refund.

The other side wants to refund money to people who never paid the taxes because of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

I would suggest to Members, pay attention to this bill. Focus on the good things that it does. Recognize that there is $4 billion of increased spending on priorities, and avoid the shrill rhetoric of the other side when they call this tax cut for the rich a reckless scheme.

We are balancing the budget. We are preserving Social Security. We are finally increasing, if you will, the contributions to that account to make it solvent. We are working on prescription drug coverage for the seniors. We are working on a number of issues that will make this country stronger. But we will never be strong as a Nation if we continue to try to beat each other up over silly sound bites designed for the next election, rather than the business on the floor.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment which will shave just a tiny bit of the tax cut to the top 1 percent of wealthy people in this country in order to provide more funding for veterans and for other essential needs.

But I want to make a larger point in reference to some of what I heard from the other side of the aisle. We are told by the Social Security Task Force that, after 2016, we will have to either raise taxes or cut benefits to pay for these Social Security bonds that will be redeemed then. Well, those will be about $200 billion a year. The tax cut we passed a few days ago will be about $400 billion a year at that time.

So do not tell us we cannot keep faith with our senior citizens to redeem our Social Security bonds and pay out the full benefits. It would only cost to do that half the cost of the tax cut you just gave to the richest people in our country, and, in effect, taking away, if you listen to the rhetoric of the Social Security Commission, from all the people that depend on Social Security.

It is not difficult. We do not have to raise taxes. We just have to be careful in what we do and not do the tax cut for the richest 1 percent, if we want to redeem all those Social Security bonds and pay all the benefits. We do not have to destroy Social Security in order to save it. We just have to not pass the Republican tax cuts.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY).

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Chairman, I want to, first of all, express my appreciation to the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from West Virginia, the chairman and the ranking minority member of the subcommittee, for the very respectable job they have done in putting this bill together. I think that we all need to recognize that.

But the problem we have with this bill, which is a very real and serious and definite problem, is based upon the fact that the tools they had with which to operate were inadequate. The funding number that they were given is too low. The reason for that is the leadership here, at the request of the President, insisted on passing a massive tax cut before we had a budget, before priorities were established. That was a basic and fundamental mistake, and it is one for which we are going to pay dearly, not just this year but in every succeeding year over the course of the next decade.

How are we going to pay? We are going to pay by inadequate provision for those people who defended this country in some of the most difficult and darkest times in our history, our veterans. We are not providing adequately for their health care, and we are not providing adequately for the general maintenance that many of them need. We are not doing that because we do not have the resources in this bill.

We are not providing enough housing for people who need housing all across America. We have a $20 billion housing deficit today that is not being adequately addressed, and we cannot address it because of the inadequate funding level in this bill.

People need housing. There are so many people in my district, I am sure, and in every district represented by every Member here, of people who cannot find adequate housing because housing is too expensive and their incomes are too low.

The gentleman from Florida was up here a little bit earlier in the context of this debate talking about questions that have been raised by his constituents concerning the relationship between toxic and hazardous waste and the exposure of people to toxic and hazardous waste and their health conditions, debilitating, declining health conditions. What is the relationship?

There is an unquestionable relationship between people who have been exposed to toxic and hazardous waste and decline in their health in forms of cancer, attacks of the endocrine system, in

developmental disabilities. And this bill, unfortunately, because it has an inadequate funding level, does not deal with the problem of enforcement of toxic and hazardous waste laws. Therefore, people in Florida and other places all across the country are being exposed to toxic and hazardous substances which are destroying their health.

There is not enough money in this bill to deal with the problems of drug control in public housing. We fund hundreds of millions of dollars to deal with the problem that we think we have in South America, sending money down there to kill South Americans, but we do not provide enough money to save the lives of Americans in public housing. The priorities are inadequate, and it is because of inadequate funding because of that tax bill.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment does not reduce the size of the tax cut for a single middle-income American. The only persons affected on the tax side by this amendment are people in the top 1 percent of earners in this country who make more than $330,000 a year.

I am sure that they are all fine people. That is not the issue. I do believe that they can afford to have a slightly smaller tax cut. I do believe they do not need an entire $53,000 tax cut, which is on average what they will receive under the tax package that was passed. I do not believe that they need that full tax cut as much as sick veterans need better medical care, or as much as low-income children need to get out of rat traps and into decent housing, or as much as we all need adequate enforcement of our laws to protect the environment.

I am amused by one of the previous speakers who talked about the tax rebate and who it ought to go to. This has nothing whatsoever to do with the tax rebate. People are going to get their tax rebates, although I would note I did get a complaint from a reporter in my district because his grandmother, who died a year and a half ago, did get a tax rebate in the mail, and the letter was labeled: Blank name, ''deceased.'' With all due respect, I do not know many people whose last name is ''deceased.''

I would prefer to see to it that what tax rebates we do give go to live veterans in need of health care, go to the families of live children who need better housing, and go to those Americans who are sacrificing in order to provide national service in their own communities; and I make no apology for that.

I find it interesting that somehow people talk about class warfare. I think the middle class has already lost, if there has been a war, because the CBO shows that the top 1 percent of earners over the past 20 years has had their after-tax income rise by $414,000, while the middle class has had their income rise over that same period, their after-tax income, by about $3,400. Some victory for the middle class.

So I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, if people think veterans are getting adequate health care, fine; oppose the amendment. If you think poor kids are getting adequate housing, fine; oppose the amendment. This issue is not whether you are for or against tax cuts. This is an issue of who you think has a greater need, who you think has a greater requirement for assistance from Uncle Sam.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time. I will be prepared to yield back the remainder of the time when the gentleman is prepared to yield back the remainder of his time.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close the debate, and I will honor the gentleman's agreement that I will yield as soon as he does.

Mr. Chairman, this is a phony choice. We do not have additional funds available to us to spend, and we cannot in the process of creating this legislation amend any existing legislation, and that is what the gentleman has asked us to do.

The debate over tax cuts is over. In fact, the check is in the mail. These funds are not available to us to spend. We have an allocation. It is a substantial amount of money. The subcommittee has met for hundreds of hours in hearings and in planning to develop this bill, as a subcommittee and full committee. The bill passed the full committee on a voice vote. I think it has strong support within the Committee and within the Congress; and, for that reason, Mr. Chairman, I would reserve my point of order and ask Members to continue to support this bill as it stands after having made the choices that we have made.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from New York insist on his point of order?

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I insist on my point of order.

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman wish to be heard on his point of order?

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriations bill and therefore violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part: ''An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.''

The amendment directly amends existing law, and I would ask for a ruling of the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN. Does anyone wish to be heard further on the point of order?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is fully consistent with the rules of the House. The House would have had the opportunity to vote on it if the Committee on Rules had waived the rules of the House in the same manner that they waived those rules for consideration of this bill as a whole. So I believe the amendment is consistent with the rules of the House. However, the manner in which those rules have been exercised I recognize has effectively blocked us from having this amendment come to a vote. I regret that, but I cannot do much about that.

□ 1745

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair will rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment directly amends existing law. The amendment therefore constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2, rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained and the amendment is not in order.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to engage the chairman in a colloquy.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the National Estuary Program and for providing additional funds for the program in the VA–HUD appropriations bill; and I would like to engage the chairman in a colloquy.

First, I would like to express my appreciation to the chairman and members of his subcommittee for their hard work and continued support of the National Estuary Program, NEP. Congress recognized the importance of preserving and enhancing coastal environments with the establishment of the National Estuary Program in 1987. The NEP's purpose is to facilitate State and local governments' participation in ''Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans'' for threatened and impaired estuaries.

While the NEP has been successful in developing these CCMPs, we have increased the number of estuaries in the National Estuary Program without matching funding. This has the necessary affect of slowing our progress in restoring these estuaries.

In my district, for example, in New Jersey, an NEP called Barnegat Bay exists. The Barnegat Bay watershed drains from a land area of approximately 550 square miles. Over 450,000 people live in the Barnegat Bay watershed. That population actually doubles in the summer as people flock to the New Jersey shore. The continued economic health of the Barnegat Bay watershed is dependent upon the continued health and the national beauty of its waters. The Barnegat Bay estuary is not only a vital component of New Jersey's tourist industry, but an important natural resource that supports populations of commercially and recreationally significant fish, as well as rare and endangered species.

The Environment Protection Agency plays a vital role and collaborates with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, nonprofit institutions, industries, and citizens to address these estuaries' environmental issues.

The NEP received $20 million to develop its CCMPs. This is not enough to

fund the implementation of the CCMPs for now 28 estuaries. That is why we must increase funding for the National Estuary Program to protect these vital natural resources and support the efforts of the local communities to implement their CCMPs.

The Senate bill currently has $25 million for the estuary program. I would urge the chairman to work with conferees of the Senate and House to increase the level of funding for the National Estuary Program.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SAXTON. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) for his pioneering efforts in developing this very important national program and for his continued efforts to ensure the National Estuary Program remains a strong program to protect our national estuaries for the future.

I agree that this program has been successful with developing and maintaining local government, nonprofit, industry, and volunteer support from within the States where these estuaries are located. That is why we have increased funding this year for this program to $20 million, a $2 million increase over last year. I would be glad to work with the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey to assure that this very important program continues to protect and enhance our precious national estuaries.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

Page 7, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to submit this amendment to the VA–HUD Appropriations bill. This amendment would appropriate an additional $1 million to the Veterans Health Administration.

I had another amendment that would come later, but I am not going to offer it in the interest of the time of all of the membership of this body, but I am determined to try and do something about the hypocrisy that sometimes abounds in this Congress.

I want to make it very clear that the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), the chairman of the subcommittee; the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN); the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), the chairman of the full committee; and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the ranking member of the full committee, have done the very best that they can within the budgetary boundaries under which they must operate.

The arguments that we are making do not go, in the final analysis, to class warfare, they go to: What is it that motivates us as individuals to want to take care of the needs of this country? It is commonly said, ''The mark of a great country is not what it does for those with the most, but for what it does for those with the least.'' This bill clearly does not do enough, having argued that the persons who have the responsibility of perpetrating it have done what they can, but it does not mean all of us did everything that we could.

Public housing is grossly underfunded in this bill. This underfunding harms the people who depend on Congress to help them live meaningful lives. Without it, many could be evicted from their homes and forced into the streets. Congress, this institution, I think, tends to forget that we are talking about real people, about real families; people who depend on all of us, all 435 here and the 100 in the other body, to do something about their problems, to look out for them and to work to ensure that their lives are not wasted away in degradation and poverty.

It is not an abstract issue of refunding a few hundred dollars to people who do not really need the money. Let me address the gentleman from Florida, my dear friend and colleague, that said that not many would send theirs back. I would send mine back in the morning if I knew that it was going to provide for veterans; if I knew that it was going to provide for public housing in this country that is desperately in deterioration and in need of assistance from all of us.

Let me give as an analogy what transpired in the great State of Florida that I am a fifth generation person from. Living there all of these years, we came to a point where we decided 2 years ago that we were going to give the taxpayers, me, my mama, everybody else in Florida, $1 billion back, while our schools were deteriorating, while our election system was putrid, and while all of the circumstances surrounding those who are impoverished in our State were continuing to deteriorate. Ostensibly, each one of us was supposed to get $260. I never got my check. What it was was hocus-pocus. It was a whole bunch of mysterious accounting; but yet, when the legislature convened this year, there was a $1 billion shortfall, and still the schools are crumbling, still the schools are overcrowded. Yes, the poor are desperate.

The gentleman from Wisconsin was correct. None of us need not make an apology at all about caring, and every man and woman in this institution cares about veterans. But how did we address them? We did not address them. According to the major veterans' organizations, this bill provides less than one-half the amount that is considered necessary to ensure decent health care for our Nation's veterans.

Veterans put their lives on the line. We come down here and say that all the time. They put their lives on the line for all of us; they left their families for us.

I traveled with my Republican colleagues very recently to Normandy and we stood there and saw what veterans have done on behalf of all of us, and there was not a man or woman among us, and it was a bipartisan group, that did not leave there teary-eyed, mindful that we were standing on the shoulders of those 9,000 people, including countless others, who gave us this right to come here and try to do something for everybody, not just for a handful of people in our country.

Yet, we are not willing to pay even half of what veterans should receive.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I am told that this allocation of $1 million was recently in a second or third analysis of the funds available. The Congressional Budget Office found approximately an additional $1 million that had not been spent. The gentleman has proposed that we spend it in veterans' medical care. I cannot think of a better place to put this found money, so we will accept the amendment.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH). I thank the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN), the ranking member, and maybe the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY); and I can use it on the 45th Street Veterans Administration Building.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there further debate on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS)?

If not, the question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in order to take time, because apparently I will again not have the opportunity, to speak on a matter of very, very critical importance to many of my constituents, and to constituents all across the country. We have tried for many years to have the Congress act on a particular measure of importance to our Nation's honor.

Before the war, my colleagues will recall that the Philippine Islands were a United States protectorate, a possession. It had been in this status for 42 years. When the war came about, President Roosevelt issued a military order on July 26, 1941, in which he invited the citizens of the Philippines to enlist in the Army and to join forces with the United States to fight the enemy. Nearly 200,000 Filipinos responded without hesitation to defend their homeland and to defend the flag of the United States.

From 1941 to 1945, thousands of Filipino soldiers fought alongside American soldiers. They fought in every major battle in that area. They endured years of captivity as prisoners.

They lost their lives defending our values and our sense of freedom.

Based upon the promises made to them by the United States Government, these veterans expected when the war ended that they would be treated the same as all other veterans of World War II. General McArthur reaffirmed that they would be treated like all other veterans.

Inexplicably, in 1946 the Congress broke that promise to the Filipino veterans by revoking their full benefits by passing Public Law 70–301. It is this act of Congress that we have been seeking for years to overturn. We have taken a few measured steps forward, but I rise today to call attention to this issue, because we should have included $30 million to provide for the health care of these veterans. That is the least that they are entitled to.

So I would hope that in the course of consideration of this bill and others like it in this House and in our respective committees, that we will find it possible to accord these few thousand Filipino World War II veterans, who are still surviving, the benefits that they are entitled to have as veterans who fought with our American veterans in the World War II battlefields.

□ 1800

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the assistance of the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), the chairman, over the past months and years to address what has become an important and divisive area in our district, and that is our national environmental policy on contaminated sediments and, specifically, EPA's policy on contaminated sediments in the Hudson River.

By now, many in Washington and throughout the East Coast have heard of this controversy. I happen to represent the district in which the proposed 40 miles of dredging would occur.

Let us remember, Mr. Chairman, the EPA, in the closing months of the Clinton administration, proposed a massive environmental dredging project that would drastically affect both the ecology of the Upper Hudson River and the economies of the communities along its banks. This is a decision that the vast majority of the people in the communities that I represent, who are directly impacted, are rightly concerned about and concerned about the long-term impacts of any project and the scientific basis for it.

As it is, for the past several years the committee report has directed the EPA with respect to its policies on contaminated sediments. Specifically, the committee report states, ''For fiscal years 1999 through 2001, the Congress included specific direction to EPA regarding the Agency's ordering of dredging or other invasive sediment remediation technologies pending the National Academy of Sciences' completion of a study intended to address dredging, capping, source control, natural recovery, and disposal of contaminated sediment, and comparing the risks of each technology.

''The committee notes that this study has been completed and published, and to the greatest extent practicable, expects the Agency to adopt as part of its own sediment remediation strategies those guidelines as presented in the Academy report.''

Mr. Chairman, it is critical. It is critically important that the EPA follow this direction and implement the NAS recommendations, which were highly critical of community outreach efforts with respect to its review of the Hudson River PCB contamination.

In fact, the NAS found the EPA community involvement process in the Hudson to be a failure. Mr. Chairman, with EPA's cooperation, the NAS recommendations will inject sound science into a policy on the Hudson River that has unfortunately been driven by other agendas.

I want to remind everyone looking at this issue why I am concerned about the EPA's dredging and landfilling proposals.

As background, the Hudson Valley residents, having twice now been lied to or misled by the EPA, are understandably concerned about the impact of the largest environmental dredging project in history on the ecology of the river and the negative impacts on the region's economy.

First, in 1997, the EPA was forced to reveal that it was conducting secret studies on the Hudson Valley farmland for siting of PCB landfills, after many months of deliberately deceiving the public as to the existence of those studies. They were looking, Mr. Chairman, effectively, by virtue of eminent domain proceedings, to take the valuable farmlands, the property, the homes of the residents that I represent.

After this revelation and subsequent congressional hearings, EPA officials committed to prevent this type of public deception from ever happening again.

Sadly, and secondly, questions continue to exist on the logistics of handling and disposing of 100,000 truckloads, 100,000 truckloads, of PCB-contaminated sediment and the disruption it would bring to the river.

When the EPA released its report and proposed remediation plan for the Upper Hudson on December 12, 2000, Administrator Carol Browner and other EPA officials broadly discussed the possibility of siting two hazardous waste dewatering facilities at Moreau and Albany, New York. EPA officials flatly denied that the EPA had gone far enough to propose additional sites for such handling facilities.

On February 5 of this year, responding to a Freedom of Information request by CEASE, a local grassroots organization, the EPA was forced to release an internal memo identifying 12 such sites that the EPA was looking at to create those facilities.

Mr. Chairman, it seems that, on the issues most sensitive to local residents in this particular incident, the EPA's history indicates that its preferred policy is to hide from the public. This is a serious problem. It is important for my constituents in the 22nd Congressional District, and I think for all New Yorkers, to have confidence that the NAS scientific recommendations are properly considered.

Mr. Chairman, I include for the RECORD an editorial from today's Journal News located in downstate Westchester County, New York, that points out that ''dredging would cause short-term elevations of PCB levels downriver. . . . It would damage marshlands, which might not be able to recover. And it might not, after all, thoroughly clean PCBs from the riverbed.

''With that much doubt still lingering about the safety and effectiveness of wholesale dredging, a limited approach sounds more like sensible prudence than a sellout.''

Mr. Chairman, again I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Chairman WALSH) for his effort; and I would ask that all Members look at this issue.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I want to also draw the attention of the Members of this House to the Hudson River Superfund site. The Hudson River Superfund site is the largest Superfund site in the Nation. It runs for about 150 miles, from the Battery to the Federal dam at Troy.

It is a Federal Superfund site and a State Superfund site, for that matter, in New York because of the fact that the General Electric Company, over a period of several decades, dumped hundreds of tons of polychlorinated biphenyls into the Upper Hudson River above that dam. Most of these PCBs are now still concentrated in so-called hot spots or concentrations of PCBs in this location around Fort Edward and a number of other localities up above that dam.

This site is a hazardous waste site because PCBs are extraordinarily toxic. They are toxic in the sense that they are known to be cancerous in animals, and they are suspected to be and some would say known to be cancerous in humans, as well.

PCBs cause cancer. They also attack the endocrine system. That is the natural defense system of the body. It protects us against the invasion of disease. That endocrine system is attacked by PCBs. It makes it much more difficult for people to defend themselves against ailments and causes a whole array of sicknesses to exist in bodies that are exposed to these very toxic chemicals.

Furthermore, PCBs attack the developmental system, and they are known to cause low birthweight babies and to cause a deterioration in the intellectual ability of infants as the mothers have been exposed to PCBs. So, Mr. Chairman, that is just a given indication of the seriousness of this question.

For several decades, going back to in fact the late 1970s, both the State of New York and the Federal Government have examined this question. Over a period of time they have attempted to develop a solution for it. At no time, except within the last 8 years, has this been done in a very serious way.

However, over the course of the last 8 years, and particularly within the last 6 years, the Environmental Protection Agency has developed a plan to remediate much of the PCBs from the Hudson River in order to protect people, particularly those located up in the upper river but also those people who live in the lower river, from the damage that is caused by the presence of these PCBs in the river.

Let me say parenthetically, that damage, of course, has resounded throughout the ecological system of the Hudson River. Every form of life, from the tiniest biota to the largest animals at the top of the food chain, are affected with these PCBs; and anyone who eats any of the animals out of the river, any of the fish, chemicals, anything that comes out of the river, absorbs quantities of PCBs into their body.

The PCBs concentrate in the fatty tissues within the body. Those PCBs concentrated in the fatty tissues are passed on to infants by the lactating mothers of those infants, again giving an indication of the seriousness of this particular problem.

The EPA now has developed a plan to deal with this issue. That plan is to dredge the concentrations of PCBs, remove them from the river, and reduce very substantially the level of this problem and the damage it is causing to the environment and to human health.

Now, however, we receive indications from the new EPA in a new administration that once again we may be facing inordinate and irresponsible, unconscionable and unexplainable delays. It seems, it is rumored, that this EPA, under this new administrator in this new administration, is not going to follow through on the carefully developed plan formulated by the Clinton administration EPA, formulated by the scientists within the EPA, peer-reviewed by scientists outside of the EPA, and found to be sound in virtually every detail.

In spite of all that, this EPA under this administration, with this administrator, is backing away from the plan, we are told. How ironic that is when one considers that this EPA administrator, when she was the Governor of the State of New Jersey, repeatedly is on record saying that she favored dredging the PCBs out of the river. Now, apparently, she may be taking a different tune, apparently at the direction of the White House.

I hope that that is not the case. This is a serious problem, and it needs to be addressed intelligently and seriously.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to engage in a colloquy with the gentleman from New York.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) for his leadership on the Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies in putting together this bill.

As a scientist, I am especially heartened by the funding increase provided for the National Science Foundation. This bill funds NSF at $4.8 billion, which is a 9 percent increase, $414 million over the fiscal 2001 funding level.

By approving this funding increase for NSF, we in the House make clear our understanding that the type of basic research in science and engineering that is supported by NSF is vital, not only to our Nation's continued economic leadership, but to continued increases in our standard of living and, indeed, to the sustainability of that standard of living.

In recent years we in Congress have been committed to doubling the budget of the National Institutes of Health by 2003. We are justifiably proud of that effort.

At the same time, we must also be aware that advances in the physical sciences, mathematics, computer science, and engineering are fundamental to the developments in medicine.

To give an example, the move to double the NIH budget is motivated largely by the desire to cure cancer, among other serious diseases. However, many of the tools used to diagnose and treat cancer, among them x-rays, MRIs, CAT scans, and radiation treatments, come from the world of physics.

Just yesterday I spoke to a research physician who pointed out that much of his research today would have been impossible just 15 years ago. The advanced tools that are now crucial to his work were developed just recently from work done in physics.

We in Congress should have the goal of doubling the budget of NSF over the next 5 years through 15 percent annual increases. Overall, scientific and technical progress requires a balance between all of the sciences, which requires that funding for NSF keep pace with the funding for NIH.

I applaud the chairman and his subcommittee for recognizing that fact by providing this substantial and well-justified funding increase for NSF in this bill.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. EHLERS. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his remarks and for his leadership on all science issues in the House and for being a strong advocate for science.

The subcommittee is acutely aware of the need for vigorous basic research effort in this country, which starts with the work of the National Science Foundation. Too often we overlook the importance of basic research in the sciences and in engineering also because its results are not always immediately applicable to tangible products. Breakthroughs in medical research, on the other hand, are more easily understood.

I would like to echo the gentleman from Michigan in saying that we would do well to recognize the diversity of scientific endeavors that contribute to medical advances. I find it telling that the recent very noteworthy success of the human genome project, for example, was built on cutting-edge research in computer science, chemistry and other subjects of the kind supported by NSF.

If the resources were available to us, the subcommittee would support an even greater increase in NSF funding than the 9 percent increase over fiscal year 2001 that is in the bill. We feel, nevertheless, that the increase is a strong start in guaranteeing that our Nation remains preeminent in basic research for years to come.

Mr. EHLERS. I thank the gentleman, Mr. Chairman.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. CARSON OF INDIANA

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Ms. CARSON of Indiana:

In title I, in the paragraph relating to ''VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION—MEDICAL CARE'', after the aggregate dollar amount insert the following: ''(reduced by $16,200,000)''.

In title I, in the paragraph relating to ''DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION—OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL'', after the aggregate dollar amount insert the following: ''(increased by $16,200,000)''.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, my amendment provides additional funds to the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of the Inspector General, and it will reap a manyfold return in cost savings and result in a greatly improved quality of health care for American veterans.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is the second largest executive branch agency. Yet this behemoth is monitored by an Office of Inspector General staffed at one of the lowest levels among all 29 statutory Inspector Generals when Inspector General staffing is compared to total agency employment.

□ 1815

The VA IG has a staff of 365 nationwide. If the VA office of the IG was staffed at just the average ratio among the 29 statutory Inspectors General, the staff would be 4,000 full-time employees. My amendment, Mr. Chairman, would provide funding for an additional 110 full-time staff on the IG's team and permit an acceleration of the IG's facility assessment program from its current 6-year cycle to a more reasonable 3-year cycle.

A migration from the 6-year cycle to the 3-year cycle would enhance the IG's

ability to determine the root causes of departmental management inefficiencies. With proactive oversight, the VA Office of the Inspector General can identify tremendous cost savings measures and assure that taxpayers' dollars are put to their best use. In the end, this will provide for smarter management, greater cost savings, and, most importantly, better, more accessible health care for our veterans. An accelerated proactive assessment cycle would likely yield savings or redirect funds to better use in the billion dollar range.

In fiscal year 2000, the VA OIG staffed 369 positions at a cost of $45 million and was able to demonstrate solid performance results, including 338 arrests, 280 indictments, 247 convictions, 496 administrative sanctions, $302 million in funds put to better use, $11.4 million in dollar recoveries, and $13.8 million in fines, penalties, restitution and civil judgments. These savings were realized under the 6-year assessment cycle, and a 3-year cycle would do so very much more.

Mr. Chairman, let me assure my colleagues that I have long fought and continue to fight for the enhancement of medical benefits for veterans. As we consider adopting this amendment, I assure all of my colleagues that, as the ranking minority member on the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation of the Committee on Veterans Affairs, I consider this a true value of effective oversight, and I ask for their support of this amendment. It is cost effective.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I am a little surprised, quite frankly, at this amendment. I fully expected there would be more amendments adding additional funds to the already precious dollars that are in VA medical care, but this amendment would take $16 million out of veterans medical care. This is money that goes toward surgical procedures, towards pharmaceutical drugs, towards nurses and doctors, heat and lights, and running these facilities. To hand over these funds to the Inspector General's office, to me, just does not make good sense. So I strongly oppose the amendment.

We have already provided the Inspector General with an increase of $6 million over last year, a 15 percent increase from in their fiscal year 2001 budget. It is also a $4 million increase over this year's budget submission. This amendment would result in close to a 50 percent increase in the budget. I suspect the Inspector General could not handle that much money, they could not put that many people on, and this money is dearly needed for veterans medical care. I would hate to jeopardize the health of our veterans by reducing this already substantial but certainly dear amount of money.

So I rise in strong opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there any further debate on the amendment?

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to address the Committee for 2 minutes.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Chairman, I respect very much the gentleman's argument in terms of the amendment that I offered, and I realize that on its face it does probably raise red herrings in terms of what I am doing; that I may be taking away medical benefits from veterans in favor of the Inspector General. But as I indicated in my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman, this amendment is cost effective and it will allow the expansion of Inspectors General to generate more money for the Veterans Administration.

I would like to suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we engage in further dialogue with the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and see if we cannot work out this situation in terms of advancing the idea that I have here in terms of trying to help the Veterans Administration.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. CARSON. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. If the gentlewoman would be prepared to withdraw the amendment, we would be happy to sit down and discuss this with her at length, and with the authorizing committee, to see if we can address her concerns.

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Chairman, since the gentleman has offered that, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. The amendment is withdrawn.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

MEDICAL CARE COLLECTIONS FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Amounts deposited during the current fiscal year in the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Care Collections Fund under section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, shall be transferred to ''Medical care'', to remain available until expended.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 73, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2003, $371,000,000, plus reimbursements.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. GUTIERREZ

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 13 offered by Mr. GUTIERREZ:

In title I, in the paragraph under the heading ''VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION—MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH'', after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $24,000,000)''.

In title III, under the heading ''NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION—HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT'', after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(reduced by $24,000,000)''.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Chairman, I would like to engage in a colloquy with the Republican manager, the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), and the Democratic manager, my colleague, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN).

First, I would like to recognize both the chairman and the ranking minority member for their continued support for medical and prosthetic research in the Veterans Health Administration. It is in great measure due to their support and commitment that this bill has come to the floor with approximately $20 million more than had been initially programmed for prosthetic research.

Dating back to the spring, when I first contacted them and their colleagues in the Committee on Appropriations, urging them to take the necessary step that we began last year when the chairman similarly approved my amendment to raise the funding of this very program, they have once again responded affirmatively to my request that we increase the funding for this extremely important research program.

Secondly, I would like to emphasize that this increase will assist the VA research program in achieving the stability necessary for successful research, one that can eventually achieve its full potential for finding cures and treatments for many chronic and terrible diseases. The VA research program is uniquely positioned to advance diagnosis and treatment for conditions that particularly affect veterans, including prostate cancer, diabetes, heart disease, Parkinson's disease, mental illnesses, spinal cord injury, and aging-related diseases. But I remind my colleagues that, ultimately, our Nation as a whole is the beneficiary of research conducted by the VA.

Mr. Chairman, this generous increase would not have been possible without the complete support of the chairman and the ranking member. I believe in their commitment to this program and trust they will work with the Senate in conference to secure up to the $391 million for this program. I wish to note that our colleagues in the Senate have provided a $40 million increase for this deserving program. I ask the chairman and the valued ranking member for their commitment to work with their Senate counterparts during conference to achieve the highest possible funding for the VA medical and prosthetic research program.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GUTIERREZ. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois for his advocacy in this area. The bill provides $20 million over last year's funding level for VA research, plus $30 million in construction funds specifically for research facility rehabilitation.

Because the Senate has provided a higher funding level for VA research in their bill, this account will be an issue in conference; and we will take into account the views and concerns of the gentleman from Illinois and the other Members who have expressed an interest in increasing funding for this important account as we move forward.

I thank the gentleman for his willingness to withdraw his amendment.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GUTIERREZ. I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I want to commend the gentleman for bringing this issue to the attention of the full House, and I want the gentleman to know that it is certainly high on the priority list for the chairman. He added $10 million in this account during the full committee, and we have just heard him express his real support for taking a strong look at it during conference.

I commend the gentleman for bringing it to our attention, and I understand he is going to withdraw his amendment, but I just want to assure him that both sides of the aisle are supportive and will support him in conference.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Chairman, I thank both gentlemen for all their work on this issue, and I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. The amendment is withdrawn.

Are there any further amendments to this paragraph?

If not, the Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

MEDICAL ADMINISTRATION AND MISCELLANEOUS OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of capital policy activities, $66,731,000, plus reimbursements: *Provided*, That technical and consulting services offered by the Facilities Management Field Service, including project management and real property administration (including leases, site acquisition and disposal activities directly supporting projects), shall be provided to Department of Veterans Affairs components only on a reimbursable basis.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including administrative expenses in support of Department-wide capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms or allowances therefor; not to exceed $25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, $1,195,728,000: *Provided*, That expenses for services and assistance authorized under 38 U.S.C. 3104(a)(1), (2), (5) and (11) that the Secretary determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans (1) to the maximum extent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed $60,000,000 shall be available for obligation until September 30, 2003: *Provided further*, That from the funds made available under this heading, the Veterans Benefits Administration may purchase up to four passenger motor vehicles for use in operations of that Administration in Manila, Philippines: *Provided further*, That travel expenses for this account shall not exceed $15,665,000.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FOLEY

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. FOLEY:

In title I, in the paragraph relating to ''DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION—GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES'', after the aggregate dollar amount insert the following: ''(increased by $25,000,000)''.

In title III, in the paragraph relating to ''NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION—RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES'', after the aggregate dollar amount insert the following: ''(reduced by $92,000,000)''.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Chairman, as my colleagues know, the veterans benefits claim process in this country is a disaster. This disaster is not the fault of the dedicated employees of the VA or Mr. Anthony Principi, the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs, but rather the bulk of the blame lies with the years of neglect and lack of planning AND foresight.

When a typical veteran in my State has to wait an average of 171 days to get a response to a claim, no one can doubt that we have a serious problem. Would any of us expect to wait 171 days after filing a medical claim with our insurer before actually getting the check in the mail? No one would. No American would wait. Yet this is exactly what our national veterans have to face every time they file a benefit claim with the Veterans Administration.

What is worse is that, according to the administration's own budget, that 170-day wait may well exceed 270 days this year. That 100-day increase in the claims turnaround time is estimated by the administration even after the good chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), has increased by a $128 million earmark in this bill to alleviate that problem. In fact, recently, in our supplemental bill, and I commend the gentleman from New York for aggressively pursuing this problem, he provided another $19 million. So we are making progress.

But let no one be mistaken, this is a crisis. Veterans in my State and across the country sometimes die before their health or other benefit claims can be processed.

□ 1830

These claims stem from veterans who feel they have been unjustly denied the benefits they are entitled to and deserve. For example, my State of Florida has only one processing facility currently operating with a 24,000 case backlog. The second largest State in the Union with veterans residing in the State and only one processing facility.

My amendment will add $25 million to the VA general operating expense account for the express purpose of hiring and training additional claims processors. The increase would be offset by a similar amount from the National Science Foundation's $3.6 billion research account which the VA–HUD appropriations bill, and I will add, has generously increased over last year's level by $292 million.

The amendment is not aimed at lessening the good that the National Science Foundation does. But our rules require offsets, and this becomes a matter of priorities.

The Foley amendment uses the NSF's polar and antarctic research accounts as an offset. The base bill recommends $3.6 billion for National Science Foundation research next year, an increase of over $300 million. Taking $25 million from the NSF's already increased account is far less significant than the additional claims processors that the VA could hire with this additional funding.

This is a meaningful amendment which will make a significant dent in the turnaround time for claims processing. This is a nationwide problem, one that Secretary Principi and I have talked about. He has personally stated this is his primary goal of fixing as new head of the VA. Let us give him the funding he needs.

The amendment is about priorities. One of the highest priorities should be taking care of those who fought the wars for us. Yes, these are interesting times, and these are aggressive bills which I believe seek to solve a lot of our country's problems. But at a time when our Vietnam vets and Korean vets and World War II vets and Desert Storm vets are being told to wait, we are increasing by $300 million monies in accounts that probably could take a little bit of a reduction in order to satisfy and help those who have sacrificed.

Again, focus on where the amount of money comes from, the NSF's polar and antarctic research accounts as offsets.

I again thank the chairman and I do want to underscore the fact that his committee and his chairmanship has brought a lot of great benefits to veterans. I know help is on the way in a number of these other areas, but I would urge Congress to accept my amendment.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. I would remind my good friend and colleague from Florida that we are spending over $51 billion in the veterans' accounts this year. The entire science budget for the National Science Foundation is under $5 billion. That is a ten to one ratio. Obviously, one can see where our priorities are. They are on our veterans, on providing for their benefits, on providing for their health care, on providing for the administration that is a very important and significant portion of the Federal budget.

Fifty billion for veterans, less than 5 billion for research. We all know how important research is to the future of all Americans, including our veterans. Make no mistake about it, the investment that we are making in the National Science Foundation will resound also to the veterans as it will with all members of the American society. Besides, we have already increased this account by almost $146 million, the President's request.

For the benefits administration alone we provided just under $1 billion, $955 million. We funded this bill at the President's request which was an increase of $129 million over last year; $148 million if we consider the supplemental funding we passed last week.

We have fully funded the VA's plan to hire 400 claims processors, continuing our commitment to improve the claims situation as we provided funds for 400 new claims processors just last year.

This is Secretary Principi's highest priority. He is focused on this. He is asking for resources. He has a plan. Let us let him implement that plan.

The VA cannot hire more people at this point. More money will not translate to more people. The budget request for NSF's request by the President was barely a 1 percent increase. We are doubling the National Institutes of Health. It does not make sense to double the National Institutes of Health without making dramatic increases also in the National Science Foundation. It is the basic science, the math, the physics that makes all of this possible, all of this research possible.

So we needed to make that increase, and we did. The subcommittee stepped up to the plate and provided a 9 percent increase. The amendment of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) would cut nearly one-third of our increase out of that budget, a situation which I believe is absolutely the wrong thing to do.

The Nation's economy depends on the research conducted through NSF. I strongly oppose this amendment. These funds coming out of NSF will hurt the veteran just as much as if we cut them out of their own budget.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. The bad news is the gentleman states the problem correctly, that there are large delays waiting for these medical claims to be processed, to be considered. The good news, however, is that the chairman addressed the issue in this bill. It is contained in this bill.

The gentleman said let us give the Secretary the funding he needs. Well, the chairman gave him the funding he asked for, which I assume is the funding he needs. The President's request was fully funded at $146 million, a $146 million increase.

I think the gentleman should be pleased with the treatment of this problem in the bill, and it is being addressed aggressively last year with an increase of 400 new employees on task and 400 will be added as a result of this bill.

The offset the gentleman proposes is absolutely terrible. We have been working very hard during the last several years to increase NSF's funding. The gentleman takes it from the NSF increase and, by my computations, he is taking $92 million, which is about a third of the increase that we are providing for NSF.

So, on the one hand, I think the gentleman raises a legitimate concern. It is being addressed in the bill, however; and he should be pleased with that. On the other hand, where he is taking the money it is particularly difficult because that is an account that we are trying to increase. It is very meritorious to increase, and the cut he takes from that is really a horrendous cut that would be taken to NSF.

Mr. Chairman, I urge opposition to the amendment.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I rise with some reluctance to oppose this amendment, and the reluctance is that it is offered by my good friend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY). The gentleman is engaged in a noble cause, but I will oppose it precisely for the reason that has been specified before this evening: This amendment would decimate the National Science Foundation's budget, particularly in the area of polar research and the Antarctic.

We discussed just a few moments ago the work of the National Science Foundation and how necessary it is to fund it at a level to keep pace with the funding at the National Institutes of Health, because so much of the work at the NSF is related to the work of the NIH in its battle to fight various diseases such as cancer, diabetes and the many other diseases that they are engaged in fighting.

In addition, the National Science Foundation is engaged in many other areas of research. In regard to the polar and Antarctic research which the gentleman from Florida seeks to cut, it is a unique research program that tackles many problems which cannot be tackled anywhere else in the world. For example, these research funds resulted in the first discovery of the ozone hole, which alerted our whole planet to the need to do something about chlorofluorocarbons and led to measures in both industry and government to end our very large use of chlorofluorocarbons; as a result we are beginning to see a shrinking of the ozone hole.

In addition, because of the unique position at the pole, this is an ideal spot for astronomy. From that position many stars can be viewed that cannot be seen well from other areas of our planet.

The amount that the gentleman is proposing to take out of this research budget is approximately one-third of the budget allocated for that work. That is a severe cut. We discussed earlier the small amount of the increase in the NSF budget compared to the NIH budget and discussed the need to seek a doubling of the NSF budget. We are not even close to doing that this year.

If we take even more money out, it would be a serious blow to the budget of the NSF and to the scientific work that is carried out at the National Science Foundation. All of us value that research and benefit from it very, very directly. If I had the time, I could spend an hour pointing out all of the benefits derived from the funds spent on the basic research done by the National Science Foundation.

For these reasons, I urge that we vote ''no'' on this particular amendment. I urge even more strongly that the sponsor withdraw the amendment. I think his effort to help veterans is noble, but his funding proposal would cause inestimable damage to the National Science Foundation.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the gentleman from Florida to withdraw his amendment so we do not engage in a vote which could be detrimental to the National Science Foundation.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment. The gentleman from Florida proposes to reduce research funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) by $92 million and funding for the Department of Veteran Administration's (VA) General Operating Expenses account by $25 million.

For fiscal year 2002, this appropriations bill adds $4.3 billion to VA's fiscal year 2001 budget of $47 billion, and increase of over 9.2 percent. That $4.3 billion increase is nearly equal to NSF's entire budget. To this increase, the gentleman wishes to add $25 million by taking $92 million from NSF's significantly smaller appropriation.

Each year when the VA/HUD bill comes to the floor, amendments are offered that would strip NSF of funding to pay for other programs—some worthy, others not. I believe that this practice is shortsighted. This House has continually recognized the important role NSF and basic research have played in our Nation's economic and technological development.

NSF is the government's premier science agency. It supports cutting-edge research to answer fundamental questions within and

across scientific disciplines. This research has helped fuel new industries and jobs that have propelled economic prosperity and changed the way we live.

Maintaining the Nation's leadership in science will require keeping open the pipeline of new ideas and innovations that flow from fundamental research. NSF is the Federal Government's only agency dedicated to the support of education and fundamental research in all scientific disciplines, from physics and math to anthropology and zoology. Today's NSF-led research in nanotechnology, advanced materials, biotechnology, and information technology are laying the groundwork for the technologies of the future, and in the process training the scientists, engineers, and technology entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

While I agree with the Gentleman on the need to reduce the backlog of VA benefits claims, I do not think that cutting the funding of the Nation's premier science agency is the way to do this. Therefore, I oppose this amendment and urge my colleagues to oppose it as well.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida will be postponed.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to engage my friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), in a colloquy regarding funding for Hispanic-Serving Institutions, known as HSI's, under the National Science Foundation Education and Human Resources Program.

There are over 200 HSI's throughout this country that are enrolling an ever-increasing number of Hispanic college students. Hispanics are now the second largest minority in the United States. Many of these students are the first generation Americans in their family to attend colleges or universities. We need to encourage them to complete their education and to enter fields like math, science and engineering, where our country is experiencing a severe shortage.

The National Science Foundation is charged with the responsibility of improving math, science and engineering education across the country. To do this, NSF provides several competitive grant programs for which schools can apply to train teachers, students and improve the quality of their math, science, engineering and technology programs. Past authorization language has required the NSF to target under-represented populations. However, to date, Hispanic-Serving Institutions have received less than 2 percent of the grant funding available.

Mr. Chairman, does the appropriations subcommittee chairman agree that the NSF should be targeting under-represented populations such as the HSIs?

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HINOJOSA. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, first, let me thank the gentleman from Texas for bringing up this important issue.

As the gentleman knows, we have made every effort to increase the budget for the National Science Foundation to the highest level possible and spread those funds as broadly as possible among programs throughout the Foundation. In this context, the subcommittee has placed great emphasis on providing additional dollars for several programs emphasizing math, science and engineering education.

Generally speaking, we in the Foundation should do all that can be done to promote these programs at all educational institutions, but I certainly agree with the gentleman that a special effort should be made to target minority-serving institutions and in particular Hispanic-Serving Institutions for enhancement of these important programs.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Will the chairman work with me and the leadership of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to develop report language urging the National Science Foundation to do more aggressive outreach and grant solicitation amongst HSIs so that more of them can improve their math and science programs to better educate Hispanic students?

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I will be glad to work with the gentleman from Texas and his Congressional Hispanic Caucus to find ways to make the grant programs funded under this bill more accessible to HSI's and to encourage the National Science Foundation to work to increase the number of HSI's participating in its grant programs.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH); and I thank the ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN).

□ 1845

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, not otherwise provided for, including uniforms or allowances therefor; cemeterial expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemeterial operations; and hire of passenger motor vehicles, $121,169,000.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, $52,308,000.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending and improving any of the facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406, 8102, 8103, 8106, 8108, 8109, 8110, and 8122 of title 38, United States Code, including planning, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is $4,000,000 or more or where funds for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, $183,180,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed $20,000,000 shall be for costs associated with land acquisitions for national cemeteries in the vicinity of Sacramento, California; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Detroit, Michigan: *Provided*, That except for advance planning activities, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and other capital asset management related activities, such as portfolio development and management activities, and investment strategy studies funded through the advance planning fund and the planning and design activities funded through the design fund and CARES funds, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, none of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be used for any project which has not been approved by the Congress in the budgetary process: *Provided further*, That funds provided in this appropriation for fiscal year 2002, for each approved project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 2002; and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 2003: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promptly report in writing to the Committees on Appropriations any approved major construction project for which obligations are not incurred within the time limitations established under the preceeding proviso: *Provided further*, That no funds from any other account except the ''Parking revolving fund'', may be obligated for constructing, altering, extending, or improving a project which was approved in the budget process and funded in this account until one year after substantial completion and beneficial occupancy by the Department of Veterans Affairs of the project or any part thereof with respect to that part only.

FACILITY REHABILITATION FUND

For altering, improving, or rehabilitating facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs, $300,000,000 to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the funds made available under this heading $30,000,000 shall be only for projects authorized pursuant to section 2(b)(5) of H.R. 811 as passed by the House of Representatives on March 27, 2001; and $270,000,000 shall be only for projects achieving the purposes authorized in sections 2(c)(1), (2), and (3) of H.R. 811 as passed by the House of Representatives on March 27, 2001: *Provided further*, That none of the funds under this heading may be used for the construction of a new building unless a credible assessment, approved by the Secretary, demonstrates new construction would be more cost-effective than rehabilitating the existing building.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406, 8102,

8103, 8106, 8108, 8109, 8110, 8122, and 8162 of title 38, United States Code, where the estimated cost of a project is less than $4,000,000, $178,900,000, to remain available until expended, along with unobligated balances of previous ''Construction, minor projects'' appropriations which are hereby made available for any project where the estimated cost is less than $4,000,000, of which $25,000,000 shall be for Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) activities: *Provided,* That from amounts appropriated under this heading, additional amounts may be used for CARES activities upon notification of and approval by the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That funds in this account shall be available for: (1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the department which are necessary because of loss or damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe; and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to minimize further loss by such causes.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the HUD/VA Appropriation bill. I want to commend the chairman of the subcommittee Mr. WALSH and ranking democrat Alan Molhan on the funding levels provided for veterans programs by the bill.

This bill provides a 16 percent increase in funds for the Veterans Benefits Administration. VA Secretary Principi proposes to use these funds to hire and train 900 additional employees to address the increased workload in the disability and education claims areas. The increased workload is a result of an increased number of claims and legislative changes to the adjudication process. Addressing this backlog is an urgent task which the Secretary has attempted to confront in a very forthright and open manner.

But, frankly, I am deeply concerned and dismayed about the blatantly unfair criticism that blames him and the Bush administration for a situation that clearly was the result of policies and practices in place before he became VA Secretary. I share his concern about partisan attacks that hold him accountable because this backlog has not yet been resolved. I say to those who would make such criticisms that they cannot absolve themselves of some of the responsibility. Congress passed the Veterans Claims Assistance Act last year and that Act alone required the VA to review over 50,000 disability decisions to assure compliance with that act. In addition, the two previous VA Secretaries had substantial opportunities to make the claims process more timely and responsive to veterans, yet Secretary Principi faced a backlog of over 500,000 disability claims and 130,000 education claims when he took office. Sec. Principle is a good and honorable man who cares deeply about veterans. He is responsive and an outstanding leader. The criticism of him is unjustified, unfair and unwarranted.

As I noted, Mr. Chairman, this bill provides a 16 percent increase for the Veterans Benefits Administration. I cannot think of too many Departments that have seen a 16 percent increase in 1 year. I believe that this is probably as much money as could be productively used in fiscal year 2002. This budget is a very good one, but we should not assume that simply by increasing the budget these backlogs will disappear overnight. The VA is already hiring employees using funds they expect to receive in the supplemental appropriation bill. But it takes several years for an employee to obtain the requisite skills necessary to correctly decide a veteran's disability claim. While I expect we will see progress, there is no magic wand that will solve these matters overnight.

Mr. Chairman, on the health care side, the bill reported by the Committee on Appropriations, and again I want to thank the chairman and ranking member for their faithfulness to our veterans. This legislation provide a $300 million increase in funds to funding bill H.R. 811, which we passed earlier this year for medical facility rehabilitation projects. I want my colleagues to understand that even though we have not gotten Senate agreement yet on the Veterans Hospital Emergency Repair Act, H.R. 811, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) are willing to fund this new authorization. I think they break some very important ground by their willingness to do this.

As the chief sponsor of H.R. 811, I can say that it is readily apparent that even though the VA may need to tear down or declare excess some of its aging facilities that are vacant and not needed to serve veterans in the future, there is an urgent need to renovate medical facilities throughout the country that will be serving veterans for the foreseeable future. Unfortunately, the proposed budget for VA facility repair and renovation has not come close to meeting the documented needs of a system with an estimated value of some $35 billion.

An independent study by Price Waterhouse suggested that with a system as valuable as this one, an annual investment of about $700 million to $1.4 billion would be ideal. Unfortunately, VA budget proposals in the past few years contained far less than this for capital renovation projects. The changes in medical practice and technology demand that facilities be modernized on a regular basis; and frankly we have ignored that need in VA health care facilities in the last few budgets.

That is why all Members should be aware of the provision in the bill pledging $300 million in capital construction funds to keep VA facilities and the care they deliver up to date. This is the problem we were attempting to address in H.R. 811 when we passed it earlier this year, and this appropriations language likewise addresses it as well. Again, I want to commend the gentleman from New York and all members of the committee for supporting this funding.

The reported bill also includes substantial increases in the budgets for state home construction grants, medical and prosthetic research, and the national cemetery system. Coupled with a projected increase in receipts from insurers, an increase of $1.2 billion over the 2001 level would be provided for medical care. As the Chairman of the Subcommittee is aware, the VA carried forward $1.3 billion from last year into the current fiscal year. In addition, health care receipts are about 25 percent higher this year than last year, so that a total of $800 million in additional funds of medical care attributable to these receipts is a realistic possibility.

Mr. Chairman, I believe it is also fair to mention the issue of VA managers diverting medical care funds in a manner that reached new heights late last year. Of the $20 billion in medical care funds provided for the current fiscal year, $6.2 billion was appropriated for three items. Those three items are pharmacy (drugs), Hepatitis C care, and long-term care. As we learned earlier this year from newly-confirmed VA Secretary Tony Principi, VA doesn't need all of this $6.2 billion, and plans to spend $750 million of it on other health care needs.

Given the VA's ability to reprogram sums as a large as this without any explanation or authorization, it seems to me we need to take a much closer look at how VA is spending its money and what it is currently requesting. One of the themes I've stressed since becoming Chairman is to hold VA officials accountable for the decisions they make and how they spend taxpayer dollars. Thus, I think a one billion dollar increase is defensible and generous if we're going to have officials requesting funds for one purpose and then spending it one something else altogether. In addition, I believe we will finally see the long-awaited improvement in medical collections of around $200 million in the current fiscal year, and that increase should carry over into fiscal year 2002.

All in all, I believe this is a very good bill for veterans, one that provides substantial increases where the funds will do the most good. Given the demands by millions of veterans for a high-quality affordable health care benefit, it is nearly impossible to say that higher appropriations for medical care are unnecessary. But they is a very good bill, and it keeps our pledge to maintain the quality for those veterans now enrolled with VA for their health care. Mr. Chairman, I urge all Members to vote for this bill.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to identify with the remarks of my colleague who just spoke, the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs,

and I wish to address the House in two capacities: one, as a friend of the veterans, as a veteran myself; and, two, in relationship to the amendment previously discussed by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY).

The fact of the matter is I know of no better friends for the veterans of America than the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH). They both have very important roles to play, the gentleman from New Jersey as chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the gentleman from New York, who is where the rubber meets the road, on the Committee on Appropriations.

We can do all the authorizing in the world, but it does not mean much unless you follow up with appropriations. The gentleman from New York, to his credit, time after time has been there for the veterans, time after time has put more money in the budget to address very real problems that must be solved if we are to fulfill our commitments to the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States military.

I am very much aware of the delays in solving the claims processing crisis. Indeed it is a crisis. On several occasions I have spoken to the gentleman from New York about this. Others have, too. We have always received the same answer: ''We will be there when we are needed. Don't just judge us by our words. Judge us by our deeds.'' This budget includes $128 million, an 11 percent increase, for the Veterans Administration to address the claims processing problem. That deserves our praise and support.

Now, we can always do more, but the fact of the matter is we are doing more than what is adequate to address a very real, legitimate problem. But to suggest that we take from another very sensitive area, and this is where I put on my second hat, as chairman of the Committee on Science, to suggest that we take money away from the National Science Foundation, which even Ronald Reagan, in my early years on the Hill, wanted to double funding for over a 5-year period, because he was wise then and we are wise now; and the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) is evidencing the wisdom of the Congress in providing additional funds for the National Science Foundation.

I do not need to remind my colleagues that we have been through a decade of unprecedented growth, quarter after quarter, year after year, growth in our economy. It is a little bit soft right now, a little bit shaky. People are concerned. I would suggest to my colleagues in the House that the way to continue to move forward, to make sure this economy keeps percolating is, one, to do what we have already done, cut taxes to get money back into the pockets of the American taxpayer, and so that they can help keep this economy humming, but secondly to invest in appropriate science, to invest in the basic research that is so essential for the continued prosperity in America. We did not get where we have been these past 10 years, quarter after quarter year after year of growth because we just wished for better things to happen. We got there because we invested in science, and science has rewarded us with unprecedented developments. The whole Internet economy, the whole telecommunications industry growth, these are things that are products of science.

So I would suggest that to acquire $25 million more for something that is already being addressed in a very substantial way, $128 million more in the Walsh bill, but to get that additional $25 million by taking $92 million and, boy, talk about fuzzy math, it is tough to understand and explain in this short time how that comes about, but to take $92 million away from the National Science Foundation is just not the thing to do. We can do what we should do in a responsible way, continuing to provide more funding for the National Science Foundation and do what the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) is proposing, more funding, $128 million more to solve a very real problem, that is, the backlog in the claims processing for the men and women who have served our Nation so nobly.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York for his leadership. I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey, the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for what he is continuing to do, to make certain everyone clearly understands that our veterans are uppermost in our minds. We have an obligation. We have a commitment. We are going to meet it.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to join my colleague from New Jersey, my chairman. I chair the Subcommittee on Health for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. I too would like to commend the gentleman from New York and the ranking member of this committee for their support of veterans issues and particularly for improving the access veterans can have to health care across the country.

But I would also like to come here this afternoon and thank my chairman for working on another issue and it is one that is very important to a community of mine back home, Hutchinson, Kansas. Hutchinson is a community of just over 40,000 people. On January 17 of this year, the city experienced a series of explosions caused by natural gas that leaked into abandoned salt mines that migrated under the community. People in Hutchinson woke up that day to headlines and photographs demonstrating a major occurrence had occurred in this small town. Explosions rocked the community for the next 2 days, and fires continued to burn for the next 5 months. The explosions leveled two downtown buildings, destroyed homes, hundreds of people were forced to relocate, move their home and businesses, and tragically two people died as a result of injuries sustained from this occurrence.

Just 2 weeks ago, another gas explosion occurred causing more damage to the community, both physically and emotionally. Hutchinson has a long history of salt production, resulting in hundreds of abandoned mines underneath the city and the surrounding region. In order to ensure that no natural gas further escapes and ignition occurs from these mines, each must be located and properly capped to ensure safety.

Addressing this situation is vitally important to this community and its future. It is an important priority for our country. Even President Bush mentioned in his energy strategy this tragedy. I have requested assistance from the chairman. This is the first time I have come to the gentleman from New York asking for assistance in this manner. I was anticipating being intimidated by the gentleman. He met me with sympathy and empathy. I am very grateful for that kind of response. I appreciate the gentleman indicating his willingness to assist and provide support as this bill goes to a House-Senate conference.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, just to briefly respond to the gentleman, I thank him for bringing this issue to my attention and to the attention of the committee. This catastrophic loss that occurred to his community, this devastating incident, seriously undermines public safety and economic activity in this city and the region. I know his concern is heartfelt. He has pressed this case before us. I will continue to work with the gentleman from Kansas during the conference to see what assistance we can provide to Hutchinson, Kansas. I thank him for his hard work on behalf of his community.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word to engage in a colloquy with the gentleman from New York, the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies.

□ 1900

Mr. Chairman, to address the serious shortage of suitable housing for frail, low-income seniors, the fiscal year 2000 VA–HUD bill included authorizing language to provide a pilot program for up to three grants for the conversion of unused or underutilized commercial property into assisted living facilities for the elderly. Unfortunately, in that year the appropriation language did not allow HUD to issue a NOFA to implement the authorizing language.

In fiscal year 2001, the necessary appropriation language was included in the VA–HUD bill, and $7.5 million of Section 202 funds were made available to provide for the pilot program of

grants for the conversion of unused or underutilized commercial property into assisted living facilities. Yet, upon issuance of the NOFA, HUD rejected all applications for these grants.

Mr. Chairman, the bill before us today has again appropriated funds for the conversion of eligible assisted living projects. I am concerned that HUD will continue to ignore congressional mandates on this issue, and I would ask the chairman if he would work with me in conference to correct this problem so that we can expedite the previously authorized pilot program for the conversion of unused or underutilized commercial property into assisted living facilities for the elderly.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OLVER. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for bringing this issue to our attention and for the amount of energy and thought he has put into this. We have discussed this at length, and I would be happy to work with the gentleman as the bill moves forward to address the issue prior to conference.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I appreciate the chairman's consideration.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to engage in a colloquy with the distinguished chairman of the subcommittee. I want to commend the gentleman for the robust increases he has included in H.R. 2660 for veterans health care programs. I again want to reiterate to my colleagues that an increase of $1.2 billion for the VA's Medicare account will go a long way toward improving services for our veterans.

There is an area of particular interest to me I would like to discuss the with the distinguished chairman, and that is the success of Alzheimer's disease. I am proud to support a bill that will help to improve the treatment of veterans that suffer from this debilitating dementia.

As cochairman of the Congressional Alzheimer's Task Force, I am proud of the clinical research the VA has been conducting on Alzheimer's disease. As the chairman is aware, the VA has developed a very promising model to treat Alzheimer's patients at the Bedford, Massachusetts, VA facility. This model emphasizes a home-like setting, making patients feel comfortable, instead of subjecting them to painful and heroic medical interventions, and employs an interdisciplinary team of clinicians, dieticians and therapists. All reviews of the Bedford program have concluded that it provides better care than traditional long-term care approaches.

It is my hope that, with the additional resources contained in this bill, the VA will take concrete steps to examine successful Alzheimer's programs such as the Bedford VA model and look to expand this approach to other VA medical centers.

I will yield to the chairman on that issue.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, let me begin by thanking the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for the passionate leadership that the gentleman provides on that committee for our veterans. He is always there to defend the interests of our veterans and to make sure we meet the commitments we made to our veterans.

I would also like to thank him for his interest and support in finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease. As the gentleman surely knows, nearly 600,000 veterans are estimated to be suffering from brain disease, dementia and related disorders such as Alzheimer's. I am in fact a member of the task force, and I share his commitment to helping patients and their families who are struggling with this condition.

As for the chairman's question, I believe that, yes, the VA should be carefully examining the Alzheimer's programs it manages, identifying promising models of care and then ensuring that successful models are implemented at other medical centers. In this manner, all of our veterans can receive the very latest treatment methods. Our veterans deserve nothing less.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I thank the distinguished chairman for his commitment to our Alzheimer's patients, particularly to those who happen to be veterans, the 600,000 that he mentioned.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

PARKING REVOLVING FUND

For the parking revolving fund as authorized by 38 U.S.C. 8109, income from fees collected and $4,000,000 from the General Fund, both to remain available until expended, which shall be available for all authorized expenses except operations and maintenance costs, which will be funded from ''Medical care''.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify or alter existing hospital, nursing home and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by 38 U.S.C. 8131–8137, $100,000,000, to remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. NADLER

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 17 offered by Mr. NADLER:

In title I, in the item relating to ''DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION—GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES'', after the first dollar amount insert the following: ''(increased by $4,806,000)''.

In title II, in the item relating to ''PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING—HOUSING CERTIFICATE FUND'', after the aggregate dollar amount insert the following: ''(increased by $195,194,000)''.

In title II, in the item relating to ''PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING—HOUSING CERTIFICATE FUND'', after the seventh dollar amount (relating to incremental vouchers), insert the following: ''(increased by $195,194,000)''.

In title II, in the item relating to ''PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING—HOUSING CERTIFICATE FUND'', after the eighth dollar amount (relating to amounts made available on a fair share basis), insert the following: ''(increased by $144,762,000)''.

In title II, in the item relating to ''PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING—HOUSING CERTIFICATE FUND'', after the ninth dollar amount (relating to amounts made available to nonelderly disabled families), insert the following: ''(increased by $50,432,000)''.

In title II, in the item relating to ''COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT—HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM'', after the aggregate dollar amount insert the following: ''(reduced by $200,000,000)''.

In title II, in the item relating to ''COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT—HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM'', after the second dollar amount (relating to the Downpayment Assistance Initiative) insert the following: ''(reduced by $200,000,000)''.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, this amendment will provide an additional 34,000 Section 8 vouchers, 10,000 of which will be reserved for disabled families. In addition, the amendment would add almost $5 million to veterans' extended care facilities.

I wish we could offer an amendment for a greater number of new vouchers, because the need is so great. Unfortunately, with such severe cuts to so many important housing programs necessitated by the budget resolution we passed earlier this year, it is difficult to find an offset that would provide the funds necessary to do so. We must focus the scarce resources in this bill on the areas of greatest need.

Therefore, the amendment offsets the increase in funds for additional Section 8 vouchers and for the additional funding for veterans' extended care facilities by removing $200 million from the Down Payment Assistance Initiative which is an unauthorized part of the HOME program. By postponing appropriations for this initiative until it is actually authorized and until a number of concerns raised by local mayors regarding the structure of the program have been addressed, we will be able to use these funds immediately on chronically underfunded housing programs.

Mr. Chairman, the Down Payment Assistance Initiative is not only unauthorized, no committee hearings have been held on this initiative, it is unclear how the program will be administered, it is unclear that most low-income people would have sufficient income to be able to utilize the program, and, frankly, we should hold hearings and we should properly design and authorize this program, and then we will know how much to appropriate for it. Meanwhile, we can better use these funds on the chronically underfunded existing programs.

This bill makes dramatic and alarming cuts to next year's housing budget,

yet the need for housing assistance is staggering. By HUD's estimates, there are 5 million low-income families, almost 11 million people, who have worst-case housing needs; five million families who spend more than 50 percent of their income on rent or live in severely substandard housing. None of these 11 million people receive any housing assistance.

More importantly, there is not one local jurisdiction in the United States in which a full-time, full-time, minimum wage worker can afford the market rent for a one-bedroom apartment in his or her neighborhood. A study of 70 metropolitan areas showed that someone earning the minimum wage would have to work 100 hours a week to be able to afford the market rent in those areas.

What do we say to the working people of this country when they work endless hours, sacrificing time with their families, all in an effort to provide for their families, and they still cannot afford a decent place to live? We must not ignore these needs.

The Section 8 voucher program is one of the most effective and cost-efficient means of eliminating worst-case housing needs. 1.5 million families have been able to find affordable housing through the use of Section 8 vouchers. Rental assistance allows families to enter the private housing market and choose where they want to live. By reducing housing costs, these vouchers can free up funds within the budgets of low-income families for necessary expenses such as health and child care.

Unfortunately, the Section 8 program is severely underfunded. In New York City alone, there are nearly 200,000 people, 200,000 people, on the Section 8 waiting list. Nationwide, the average wait for those entering the Section 8 program is about 2 years; and in some places people have been on the waiting list for over 10 years.

Over the last 3 years, Congress has gradually increased Section 8 vouchers by too low an amount, but it has increased it by 50,000, 60,000, and 79,000 in the last 3 years respectively. But with a national waiting list of Section 8 vouchers being well over 1 million families today, these increases are drops in the bucket. This bill increases the number of Section 8 vouchers by only 34,000.

With so many people in need, it is not the time to reverse the progress of the last 3 years. To add only 34,000 vouchers this year is to actually cut the annual increase in vouchers by 46 percent.

This amendment will increase the housing certificate fund by $195 million to provide an additional 34,000 Section 8 vouchers, of which 10,000, as I said, will be targeted to the disabled. The remaining $4.8 million dollars in savings created by this amendment will be dedicated to the State Extended Care Facilities Program to finance the construction and renovation of veterans' nursing home and hospital care facilities.

I recognize, Mr. Chairman, that this amendment is a modest action, given the shortage of affordable housing, but it is necessary to help thousands of low-income families, while, at the same time, providing resources to improve home care facilities for our Nation's veterans. By increasing funding for programs targeted at a wide range of people, from those with disabilities, to veterans, to those working to make ends meet at low salaries, this amendment sends a message that all people are deserving of the dignity and stability of a decent home.

I urge all my colleagues to support it.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I think this amendment is instructive because it shows how difficult it is to find additional funds in this to reorder the priorities in this bill.

The amendment would cut $200 million from funds that the President has asked us to provide to help low-income families to become homeowners.

Now we spend approximately $16 billion on Section 8 vouchers. We are actually looking at a program that will allow individuals to use those Section 8 housing vouchers to purchase a home. It is a pilot program. We believe that the American dream still exists, and the President has said not only should we try this pilot program with Section 8 vouchers for mortgages but we should provide $200 million to low-income families to help to make the initial down payment, that big chunk of money that we all know is necessary to plunk down before you can make a deal with a bank on the mortgage.

I cannot think of a better way, Mr. Chairman, to help families to move from welfare to work and from renting to owning. This is the President's major initiative in this bill, and I think we should honor it.

What the gentleman does is he proposes to take all of that money, all $200 million, and spend it in other areas of the bill. What he has proposed is to provide 34,000 additional Section 8 housing vouchers, and some 10,000 of those would go to disabilities.

I would submit that imitation is the highest form of flattery. That is exactly what we did in the bill. He is just doubling it.

But the problem with that is, while we have done our very best to provide new vouchers to help families in need of housing, we continue to see those funds go unused. None of the funds we provided for new housing vouchers in fiscal year 1999 or 2000 was actually used, and it is likely that this will be the case again this year, since HUD has not yet awarded the new vouchers that have been provided.

At the same time, public housing authorities continue to fail to use the vouchers they already have. On average, PHAs are providing fulfillment of only 93 percent of the vouchers that have been allocated. Consequently, huge amounts of money continue to go unspent. Last year, HUD recaptured over $1 billion in unused voucher funds, money that would have funded 171,000 vouchers.

So I cannot support, Mr. Chairman, taking these funds that will help poor families to buy their home, to get a piece of the rock, to get a piece of the American dream, to deny them that, by putting it into a program that HUD cannot possibly spend the money for.

What I urge is that we reject this amendment.

I submit for the RECORD a letter that I received in my capacity as chairman of the subcommittee from the Enterprise Foundation, the National Council of State Housing Agencies, the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, and the National Community Development Association supporting the HOME program and that $200 million presidential earmark.

JULY 26, 2001.

Hon. JAMES T. WALSH,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, HUD, and Independent Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The undersigned representatives of state and local governments and non-profit community development organizations thank you for increasing FY 2002 funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program to $2 billion in H.R. 2620, the FY 2002 VA/HUD appropriations bill. We strongly urge you to reject any House floor amendments to reduce HOME funding.

As you clearly recognize, HOME is one of the most important tools states and local governments have to respond flexibly to their unique and diverse affordable housing needs. HOME has consistently exceeded congressional expectations by assisting families with incomes below the HOME limits, leveraging significant public and private housing funds, and sparking innovative solutions to a wide array of housing challenges.

HOME's success in answering the nation's housing needs is limited by a single factor—inadequate funding. Though Congress authorized HOME at $2 billion when it created the program in 1990, Congress has never appropriated that amount. A HOME appropriation of $2 billion for the upcoming fiscal year is barely enough to compensate for the loss of purchasing power HOME has suffered since Congress first funded it nearly a decade ago.

We agree that a number of federal housing programs need more funding. HOME is one of the most deserving among them. Please insist on at least $2 billion in HOME funds in FY 2002.

Sincerely,

The Council of State Community Development Agencies.
The Enterprise Foundation.
The Local Initiatives Support Corporation.
The National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies.
The National Council of State Housing Agencies.
The National League of Cities.
The National Association of Counties.
The National Community Development Association.

Mr. Chairman, I urge that Members reject the amendment.

□ 1915

The CHAIRMAN. Is there further debate on the pending amendment?

If not, the question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE VETERANS CEMETERIES

For grants to aid States in establishing, expanding, or improving State veterans cemeteries as authorized by 38 U.S.C. 2408, $25,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2002 for ''Compensation and pensions'', ''Readjustment benefits'', and ''Veterans insurance and indemnities'' may be transferred to any other of the mentioned appropriations.

SEC. 102. Appropriations available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2002 for salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109.

SEC. 103. No appropriations in this Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs (except the appropriations for ''Construction, major projects'', ''Construction, minor projects'', and the ''Parking revolving fund'') shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any new hospital or home.

SEC. 104. No appropriations in this Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospitalization or examination of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled under the laws bestowing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under 5 U.S.C. 7901–7904 or 42 U.S.C. 5141–5204), unless reimbursement of cost is made to the ''Medical care'' account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 105. Appropriations available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2002 for ''Compensation and pensions'', ''Readjustment benefits'', and ''Veterans insurance and indemnities'' shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations required to be recorded by law against the corresponding prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year 2001.

SEC. 106. Appropriations accounts available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2002 shall be available to pay prior year obligations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from title X of the Competitive Equality Banking Act, Public Law 100–86, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable from ''Compensation and pensions''.

SEC. 107. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2002, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund (38 U.S.C. 1920), the Veterans' Special Life Insurance Fund (38 U.S.C. 1923), and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund (38 U.S.C. 1955), reimburse the ''General operating expenses'' account for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: *Provided*, That reimbursement shall be made only from the surplus earnings accumulated in an insurance program in fiscal year 2002, that are available for dividends in that program after claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: *Provided further*, That if the cost of administration of an insurance program exceeds the amount of surplus earnings accumulated in that program, reimbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 2002, which is properly allocable to the provision of each insurance program and to the provision of any total disability income insurance included in such insurance program.

SEC. 108. (a)(1) Section 1729B of title 38, United States Code, is repealed. Any balance as of the date of the enactment of this Act in the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Improvement Fund established under such section shall be transferred to the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Care Collections Fund established under section 1729A of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 1729B.

(b) Section 1729A(b) of such title is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (9); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following new paragraphs:

''(7) Section 8165(a) of this title.

''(8) Section 113 of the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act (Public Law 106–117; 38 U.S.C. 8111 note).''.

(c)(1) Section 1722A(c) of such title is amended—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking ''under subsection (a)'' and inserting ''under this section''; and

(B) by striking the second sentence.

(2) Section 8165(a)(1) of such title is amended by striking ''Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Improvement Fund established under section 1729B of this title'' and inserting ''Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Care Collections Fund established under section 1729A of this title''.

(3) Section 113(b) of the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act (Public Law 106–117; 38 U.S.C. 8111 note) is amended by striking ''Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Improvement Fund established under section 1729B of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 202'' and inserting ''Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Care Collections Fund established under section 1729A of title 38, United States Code''.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Department of Veterans Affairs shall continue the Franchise Fund pilot program authorized to be established by section 403 of Public Law 103–356 until October 1, 2002: *Provided*, That the Franchise Fund, established by title I of Public Law 104–204 to finance the operations of the Franchise Fund pilot program, shall continue until October 1, 2002.

SEC. 110. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses incurred by that account during a prior fiscal year for providing enhanced-use lease services, may be obligated during the fiscal year in which the proceeds are received.

SEC. 111. Funds available in any Department of Veterans Affairs appropriation for fiscal year 2002 or funds for salaries and other administrative expenses shall also be available to reimburse the Office of Resolution Management and the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs but not exceed $28,555,000 for the Office of Resolution Management and $2,383,000 for the Office of Employment and Discrimination Complaint Adjudication: *Provided*, That payments may be made in advance for services to be furnished based on estimated costs: *Provided further*, that amounts received shall be credited to ''General operating expenses'' for use by the office that provided the service.

Mr. FILNER (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered as read through line 25 of page 20, printed in the RECORD, and open to amendment at any point.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, reserving the right to object.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair will look to the manager for that unanimous consent request.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, reserving the right to object, the ranking member of the authorizing committee has risen to offer an amendment, and we had had prior discussion, and I would suggest that remaining in regular order, I believe it would be the gentleman's opportunity to offer his amendment.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman would yield, I thought that this would allow that to occur, and then all of the other ones at the end of title I.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from New York make a unanimous consent request to open up the bill through page 20, line 25?

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the bill, page 20 through line 25, be considered as read, printed in the RECORD, and open to amendment at any point.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. EVANS

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Chairman, I offer an Amendment No. 11.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 11 offered by Mr. EVANS:

At the end of the bill, insert after the last section (preceding the short title) the following new section:

SEC. ____. None of the funds provided by this Act may be used for the purpose of implementing any administrative proposal that would require military retirees to make an ''irrevocable choice'' for any specified period of time between Department of Veterans Affairs or military health care under the new TRICARE for Life plan authorized in the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as enacted into law by Public 106–398).

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the consideration of this amendment at this point in the reading?

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, reserving the right to object, I had assumed that this was in title I, and there are about 6 or 7 amendments remaining in

title I that I assume the unanimous consent allowed to occur. Did the maker of the motion assume that?

The CHAIRMAN. Amendment 11 is drafted to the end of the bill.

Mr. FILNER. Okay. But other amendments to title I would be in order?

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, we have no objection to the gentleman offering his amendments at this time.

The CHAIRMAN. That is without prejudice to any other amendment in title I.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his amendment.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would prohibit the Department of Veterans' Affairs from expending appropriated funds for the purpose of implementing a proposal contained in President Bush's budget.

The budget proposal would require all military retirees, including the one-quarter million veterans currently enrolled for care in the VA, to choose between either the VA or the DOD as their exclusive health care provider. This proposal has incurred the justifiable anger of our military retirees, the military itself, and the veterans service organizations. I believe that retirees have earned their right to access health care benefits in both systems and should be given that right and choice.

Mr. Chairman, while it is my understanding that the legislation will be needed to enact my proposal, I wish to prohibit any efforts by the Department of Veterans' Affairs to begin implementation of it. Congress should have more time to fully assess the effects this legislation will have and its impact on the lives of former servicemen and women.

Military retirees have devoted their lives to serving our country. We will breach our commitment if we allow the VA and the Department of Defense to simply implement their proposal that eliminates veterans' choice of providers. The truth is that these two systems provide very different packages of services and military retirees have earned the right to both.

I hope every Member of Congress will agree that this proposal is worthy of approval, and I urge its approval. I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) and my chairman on the authorizing committee, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), for getting this done. I appreciate it.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment. We have no objection to the amendment. We support in theory what the administration is trying to do. Both the VA and DOD cannot adequately plan and budget for services when both of these departments do not know the number of people they are serving. However, there are very few details from either VA or DOD, nor have we heard explanations on the effects or restrictions of the proposed policy. So until DOD and the VA can present us with a complete, well-thought-out plan, I support the amendment of the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word, and I rise in support of the gentleman's amendment and fully support it. I just wanted to express that. I appreciate the gentleman's contribution to veterans.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words, and I rise in support of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), my good friend and ranking member on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to prohibit the use of funds in fiscal year 2002, to implement the administration's proposal that military retirees be required to make an irrevocable choice between military or VA health care for a defined period of years.

While we certainly want to encourage more efficient use of scarce Federal health resources, at this juncture, we simply do not have enough information about the potential impact of that specific proposal. I do not think either the VA or the Department of Defense is really prepared to deal with the implications of requiring this choice, and both health care systems are already experiencing considerable strain serving their beneficiaries. We need to understand the implications of this proposal much, much better.

Mr. Chairman, I commend the gentleman for his amendment, and I urge my colleagues to adopt it.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Evans amendment. Forcing military retirees to choose between VA or DOD TRICARE is wrong.

Our country owes an enormous debt to the men and women who served in the Armed Forces.

It is because of their vigilance and dedication that we can enjoy the freedom that is cherished by every American.

In exchange for their service to our country, we promised them medical care for life. Without this amendment we will be taking a step backwards from this promise.

This issue is of the utmost importance to the military retirees in Marin and Sonoma counties.

Our community is fortunate to have the leadership of colonel Jack Potter, who works tirelessly to ensure that retired veterans have full access to both VA and DOD's TRICARE health care services.

Mr. Chairman, military retirees have earned their right to participate in both plans. If older retirees want to use tricare services for routine care, they should not then be forced to give up access to VA health care services.

The sixty-five thousand retired veterans in my district who are both medicare-eligible and enrolled in the VA Health Care System should not be the scapegoats for the Veterans' Administration's funding problems.

As colonel Potter points out, more than two-thirds of veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system have disabilities.

If they want TRICARE for routine care, but are denied access to the VA's highly respected specialty care services, disabled veterans may not be able to get comparable care through other military or private health care systems.

Many will be referred back to the VA for this specialized care at their own expense—that's an unacceptable financial burden to place on these retirees.

Another important consideration for our older military retirees is access to no-cost services, such as hearing aids. These services will not be free under TRICARE.

As you can see Mr. Chairman, the plan proposed in the appropriations bill will cost our veterans more money for fewer medical care options.

I ask my colleagues to support the Evans amendment and correct the wrong that will be done to our deserving veterans.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there further debate on the amendment?

If not, the question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment of the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) to strike $200 million for the down payment assistance initiative to mostly fund additional section 8 vouchers. This amendment would move this bill in the wrong direction and should be opposed, as it was. As a member of the Committee on Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity and a former home renovator, I have worked on these issues, and I believe this legislation as drafted by the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), moves in the right direction.

First, this amendment cuts the President's new down-payment assistance initiative for getting more first-time home buyers into their own homes. I cannot understate the importance of this initiative. So many Americans lack the opportunity to purchase a new home and spend a large percentage of their income on monthly rent. That can be the right choice for some, but most families greatly benefit from the purchase of their own homes. A home helps them create wealth for their families and, in the form of equity, also invests them in the community. In short, we help the families rise on the economic ladder and build stronger communities in the process. It is truly the American dream to own one's own home, a dream we have to help make a reality for families who currently lack that opportunity.

Second, this amendment designates funding for additional section 8 vouchers. This would be in addition to the 34,000 new vouchers this bill already provides. What I find interesting about this amendment is that the Democrat-controlled Senate provides half of that, 17,000 new section 8 vouchers. Why? In

the report that accompanies the Senate bill, they stated, ''The reduction from the administration's request reflects the concerns of the committee that vouchers do not always provide the best opportunities for low-income families to obtain affordable housing.''

Perhaps our esteemed colleagues in the Senate know about the problems housing authorities have had in distributing section 8 vouchers.

In my home county of Westchester, New York, we have 13,207 people on the section 8 waiting list, yet the county and communities are not able to use all of their section 8 vouchers because of a combination of lack of available housing units and the inability of section 8 vouchers to cover the fair market rent for the area.

I cannot help but feel frustrated by this problem. Here we have a program in place with extra vouchers to assist families; here we have a very long list of families who have applied for this assistance, yet they are unable to use them because they are priced out of the market. Unfortunately, the solution to this problem is not to add more vouchers. That solution will only come with more and new and affordable housing coming on to the market.

In short, the legislation takes an important step in the right direction addressing the current affordable housing crisis in our Nation. Unfortunately, the Nadler amendment would have reversed these positive initiatives to add funding to an area where it cannot be used. I have urged my colleagues to join me in voting against the Nadler amendment.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FILNER

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. FILNER:

At the end of title I, add the following new section:

SEC. ____. (a) MEDICAL CARE.—In addition to amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs elsewhere in this Act, there is hereby appropriated $30,000,000 for ''Medical Care'' for health care benefits for Filipino World War II veterans who were excluded from benefits by the Rescissions Acts of 1946.

(b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—The entire amount made available in this section is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order against the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. A point of order is reserved.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, I make this amendment which is embodied in bipartisan legislation by a large group of Members of this body, including the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), who wrote the maiden legislation; the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), who has been a strong supporter of this legislation; the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), who is with us today; and the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK), who spoke earlier; and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI); the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD); the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR); and others who have contributed to this legislation.

□ 1930

Mr. Chairman, 55 years ago this Congress committed a terrible injustice. After World War II, after the victory that occurred, of course first in Europe and then in the Pacific, those who were drafted into the U.S. Army from our Philippines protectorate were unceremoniously deprived of the benefits that were promised and earned as veterans of the United States. In 1946 the then Congress rescinded all the benefits that had accrued to our Filipine allies.

There was no doubt of the contributions that the Filipinos made. Side by side with Americans, they held onto the Philippines and held up the Japanese advance for many, many, many months beyond what the Japanese had expected, and thus allowed the United States, at a terrible time in 1941, to prepare for the war.

These Filipinos fought at Bataan, where their resistance took many, many months. When they were finally captured, Americans and Filipinos were led on the famous death march, where hundreds and hundreds died on the march and later in the prison camps in which they were held.

They fought bravely at Corregidor, and again the Japanese were held up much longer than they had expected before they conquered the Philippines. Along with Americans who were in the Philippines, their guerrilla forces harassed for many, many months until MacArthur was able to return. When MacArthur returned and landed at Leyte and then was able eventually, of course, to defeat the Japanese, he attributed a good part of his victory to his Filipino allies.

President Roosevelt had drafted all the units of the Philippine Army, all of the members of the Commonwealth Army, all of the so-called scouts, the Old Scouts, New Scouts, all of the guerrilla units into the American Armed Forces. The implication was that they would be treated as American soldiers, and therefore, American veterans. But after the war was over, the Philippines did achieve independence and this Congress said, ''Thank you, but no thank you. Your new government can take care of you, and everything we promised, we rescind.''

I thought that was a terrible injustice, Mr. Chairman. The injustice burns very deeply into the remaining veterans who are alive, barely 75,000 from over a quarter of a million or 300,000 who had fought in the war. They are in their seventies and eighties. What they want most before they die is the dignity and honor that would come from being American veterans.

This amendment I have before us is a step toward that where we provide them a very modest sum of money, $30 million, to be eligible for health care benefits, as any other U.S. veteran. I think this is the least of what we can do for these allies who did so much for us in World War II.

Mr. Chairman, because this has not been accepted earlier in authorization, I designate this as an emergency because it is an emergency. It is an emergency because our morality as a nation needs to be corrected, but more important, these gentlemen are about to die. Let us reward these folks finally with the honor and dignity that they deserve as our allies in World War II.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) to add $30 million in health care benefits to a group of veterans who are in desperate need of our assistance.

Filipino veterans who fought by our side in World War II have never received fair and adequate veteran benefits because of the Congressional Rescission Act of 1946.

I have long been an advocate of assisting our Filipino veterans. For the past several Congresses, along with the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER), we have introduced legislation to amend title 38 of the U.S. Code in order to provide that the persons considered to be members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army veterans and members of the Special Philippine Scouts, by reason of their service with the Armed Forces during World War II, should be eligible for full veterans' benefits.

Mr. Chairman, on July 26, 1941, President Roosevelt issued a military order, pursuant to the Philippines Independence Act of 1934, calling members in the Philippine Commonwealth Army into the service of the United States Armed Forces of the Far East under the command of Lieutenant General Douglas MacArthur.

For almost 4 years, over 100,000 Filipinos of the Philippine Commonwealth Army fought alongside the Allies to reclaim the Philippine islands from Japan. Regrettably, in return, Congress enacted the Rescission Act of 1946. That measure limited veterans' eligibility for service-connected disabilities and death compensation, and also denied the members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army the honor they deserved for being recognized as veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

A second group of veterans, the Special Philippine Scouts, called New Scouts, who enlisted in the U.S. Armed Forces after October 6, 1945 primarily to perform occupation duty in the Pacific, were similarly excluded from benefits.

These members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army and the Special

Philippine Scouts served just as courageously as their American counterparts during the Pacific War in World War II. Their contributions helped to disrupt the initial Japanese offensive timetable in 1942 at a point when the Japanese were expanding their aggression unchecked throughout the western Pacific.

This delay in the Japanese plans helped to buy valuable time for the scattered Allied forces to regroup, to reorganize and prepare for checking the Japanese advance in the battles of the Coral Sea and Midway.

Many have forgotten how dark those days before that victory at Midway really were. Their actions also earned the Philippine soldiers the wrath of their Japanese captors. As a result, many of the Filipinos joined their American counterparts in the Bataan Death March, suffering inhumane treatment which redefined the limits of human depravity.

During the next 2 years, Philippine Scout units operating from mobile, isolated bases in the rural interior of the Philippine Islands conducted an ongoing campaign of guerilla warfare, tying down precious Japanese resources and manpower.

In 1944, Philippine forces provided invaluable assistance in the liberation of the Philippine Islands, which in turn became an important base for taking the war to the Japanese homeland. Without the assistance of these Philippine units and guerilla forces, the liberation of the Philippine Islands would have taken much longer and been far more costly in lives than it actually was.

In a letter to the Congress dated May 16, 1946, President Harry Truman wrote, ''The Philippine Army veterans are nationals of the United States and will continue in that status after July 4, 1946. They fought under the American flag and under the direction of our military leaders. They fought with gallantry and courage under the most difficult conditions during the recent conflict. They were commissioned by the United States. Their official organization, the Army of the Philippine Commonwealth, was taken into the Armed Forces of the United States on July 26, 1941. That order has never been revoked and amended. I consider it a moral obligation of the United States to look after the welfare of the Philippine veterans.''

Mr. Chairman, I believe it is time for us to correct this injustice to provide the members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army and the Special Philippine Scouts with the benefits of the services they valiantly earned during their service in World War II.

These veterans are well into the twilight years of their lives. It is long past time for our Nation to pay meaningful acknowledgment to their valuable contribution to the cause of freedom and democracy in the Second World War.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) to restore some measure of health benefits to Filipino veterans who fought in World War II. This amendment would simply provide $30 million in health care benefits through the VA system for those veterans who honorably served our country.

On July 26, 1941, President Roosevelt issued a military order calling members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army into service. For nearly 4 years, over 100,000 Filipinos of the Philippine Commonwealth army fought alongside the allies to reclaim the Philippine Islands from Japan.

A second group, the Special Philippine Scouts, enlisted after October 6, 1945. Despite their valiant service, Congress enacted the 1946 Rescission Act to limit their veteran benefits.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment would be a small step towards ensuring Filipino veterans receive benefits just like other veterans who served in World War II. For fundamental fairness, I urge the adoption of the amendment, and want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for their leadership.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve my point of order.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I would say, Mubulhi Ag Filipinos, and to Filipinos, mama haline keta Hunggung Wacus.

To the Filipinos I say, I will love you until the end of Earth.

I was stationed in the Philippines for many years, and I lived and almost died with them in Vietnam. I want to tell the Members, there is no more loyal group to the United States than the Filipinos.

I have never met a Filipino that turned his or her back on the United States or a friend, but I think this country has turned its back for too long on those people that fought and died for Americans.

General MacArthur said, ''I shall return.'' The Filipinos never left. They gave their todays for many, American lives. They fought and they died.

Many have seen the old John Wayne movies. They say, ''It was just a movie,'' but it depicted the lives and the sacrifices of Filipinos at Corregidor, Manila, Bagio City. Places like that, and the Bataan Death March, ring in our ears and our history, but yet, Filipinos lived and died in those issues, in those battles.

I served with thousands of Filipinos in the Navy that served on Navy ships. They served for 20 years just so that they could become American citizens. We have turned our back on them for 60 years with their sacrifices, what they have given to this country. They have never forgotten.

I think the gentleman from New York said, how many are left today? Not very many. Yet, we promised them as veterans, as freedom fighters, veterans' benefits. They have been turned down.

So I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), and people who support this issue.

Members will not see very many Filipinos on welfare. Instead, we will see their children at our universities, because if we go into the Filipino community we will see them honor God and country and hard work, and the family values that all of us cherish. But they live it every single day, not only as citizens here, but as citizens in the Philippines, as well.

The Navy right now, as a matter of fact, is short sailors. During a period of time, they were our most loyal sailors. I have a bill coming forward that says we ought to reinstitute that program to have Filipinos serve, so they could become American citizens, just like in the past.

I want to tell the Members, in San Diego, the last American flag to fly over the Philippine Islands before it fell, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) has it in his office. That flag, at great risk to a Filipino, when the Japanese tore it down in Bagio City, he wrapped it up in a piece of canvas and saved it for the end of the war, because it was of value to freedom. We should value those same traditions.

Today the President of the United States recognized thousands of Filipinos at the White House today for their 60 years of service as veterans. If we recognize that value, if we take a look and have a resolution to that from the President of the United States, from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Secretary Principi, then it should be recognized that they deserve the benefits due to veterans.

We are asking only for justice, what we say we all stand for in this body.

□ 1945

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I will not use the full 5 minutes, but I did want to rise to associate myself with the comments of our colleagues who have spoken before on behalf of the Filner amendment to restore health care benefits to Filipino war vets, and I thank my colleague for his leadership in offering this amendment and his leadership over the years on behalf of Filipino vets. He has done more than anyone, and any of us who care about the Filipino vets and the commitment our country has made to them are deeply in his debt.

As my colleagues have mentioned, for 4 years during World War II more than 100,000 Filipinos fought alongside the Allied Forces to free the Philippines from Japanese occupation. Drafted into the service in 1941 by order of President Roosevelt, these historic soldiers served under the command of Lieutenant General Douglas

MacArthur, fighting valiantly to recapture the Philippines and playing a key role in the allied victory in the Pacific.

Our Nation has not given these veterans the honor and respect they deserve at the hands of our country. In 1946, Congress denied benefits to these veterans and to another group of special Filipino Scouts who enlisted in the U.S. Armed Forces after October 6, 1945. Although these brave soldiers, and many of their fellow soldiers, gave up their lives for freedom, our country denied them the recognition and benefits accorded to other servicemen and women in the Armed Forces. It took us 50 years to give the Filipino Scouts the promised citizenship.

Mr. Chairman, many of us in our communities and all of us in our country are very blessed with a great Filipino-American community. In spite of the fact that we have not honored our commitment to them, they have blessed our country with their commitment to family values, with their commitment to the work ethic, and with their very, very staunch patriotism.

This amendment would make $30 million available to provide Filipino veterans with the same health care benefits received by other World War II vets. These World War II Philippine veterans are elderly now, their numbers are dwindling. A number of them are suffering from health problems. We are running out of time. It is time to right this wrong and give the Filipino vets the recognition they deserve in their twilight years.

I urge my colleagues to support the Filner amendment on health benefits for Filipino vets. It is the least we can do, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I stand to first commend my friend and my fellow Californian for his tenacious leadership in keeping this front and center, this issue that is really an unfair issue, and that is giving due diligence to the Filipino veterans who served admirably in World War II.

So with that, Mr. Chairman, I simply rise in strong support of the Filner amendment to H.R. 2620, the VA-HUD appropriations bill. This amendment would appropriate $30 million for medical care and general health care benefits for Filipino World War II veterans.

I have perhaps the largest concentration of Filipino citizens in my district in the city of Carson, and I tell my colleagues that they are constantly crying and pleading for fairness to be done and say this amendment will begin to correct a wrong visited upon the Filipino veterans who served alongside the U.S. forces during World War II.

Our agreement or even disagreement with the current policy and economic pressures should never diminish our love and profound respect for the men and women who chose duty over personal safety and went into the battle-torn areas carrying our flag. We should have resources to take care of those Filipino veterans who have sacrificed on behalf of our Nation.

This amendment simply addresses the health care needs for a forgotten group of veterans, namely the Filipino veterans. These loyal and valiant men fought, suffered, and, in many instances, died in the same manner and under the same commander as other members of the United States Armed Forces during World War II. Their services to the Nation parallels others whose efforts and service have not been recognized or compensated.

We cannot forget the valiant and valuable services performed by the Filipino veterans. The Filner amendment will appropriate $30 million for the health care benefits for these veterans of World War II who were excluded from benefits by the Rescissions Act of 1946. As we continue to address the needs of our Nation's veterans, we should heed the word of President Lincoln who called on all Americans ''to care for him who shall have borne the battle.''

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and adhere to President Lincoln's call.

POINT OF ORDER

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) insist on his point of order?

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I do.

I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and therefore violates clause 2 of rule XXI. The rule states in pertinent part: ''An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.''

The amendment includes an emergency designation under section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and as such constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2, rule XXI.

I ask for a ruling of the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN. Does anyone else wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, I do. I understand the Chairman's reservation. He gives the impression that anything that constitutes legislation or emergency is somehow beyond the rules of this House, and yet in this bill there are dozens, I would think, maybe hundreds, I do not know, nobody can tell me, of provisions that are not authorized in legislation. In fact, we have a $1.3 billion emergency designation in the bill.

So to make the point that this is legislation and it is emergency, we all agree, but this has been done in this bill, in this Congress, many, many, many, many times for billions and billions and billions of dollars. I would just ask, on behalf of the 60,000 Filipino veterans that are left alive, that the gentleman does not insist on the point of order.

The CHAIRMAN. Does anyone else wish to be heard on the point of order? If not, the Chair will rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment includes an emergency designation under section 251(b)(2)(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. Based on similar rulings—for example, on June 19, 2000—the amendment constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. KLECZKA

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 3 offered by Mr. KLECZKA:

At the end of title I, insert the following new section:

SEC. ____. (a) AUTHORITY OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PHARMACIES TO DISPENSE MEDICATIONS TO VETERANS ON PRESCRIPTIONS WRITTEN BY PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS.—Subsection (d) of section 1712 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(d) Subject to section 1722A of this title, the Secretary shall furnish to a veteran such drugs and medicines as may be ordered on prescription of a duly licensed physician in the treatment of any illness or injury of the veteran.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—(1) The heading of such section is amended by striking the sixth through ninth words.

(2) The item relating to that section in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 of that title is amended by striking the sixth through ninth words.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from New York reserves a point of order.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KLECZKA).

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the chairman of the committee giving me time to explain the amendment, although I do recognize that a point of order does lay against this proposal.

The amendment I offer to the bill would improve veterans' access to prescription drugs by permitting the Veterans Administration to accept the prescriptions written by a veteran's family doctor.

As my colleagues listen to this explanation, they might say, gosh, this is common sense. Why is this not being changed today? Well, the current law mandates that the veteran who is going to get a prescription from the VA has to see his primary doctor. In its wisdom a few years ago, Congress permitted nonservice connected disability veterans access to medical care, specifically the drug benefit. However, because of this law, veterans are having to wait 9 months to a year before they can see a Veterans Administration doctor. And once they wait that long, naturally, they have to still go to their local pharmacy and pay the full price for their drugs. But once they finally get through the waiting process, the doctor at the VA will examine the veteran and, for the most part, come to

the same conclusion that the veteran's family physician came to, and then they get whatever drug is being prescribed.

Well, not only are the veterans being inconvenienced by the long wait, but also the examination by the veteran's physician costs money. It is estimated that each visit to the primary VA doctor, which is duplicative at best, costs about $254. In fact, many times the cost to the veteran's hospital for the VA physician visit is more than the drugs being given to the veteran.

The Inspector General testified before a Senate committee on July 24 of this year, and he indicated their recommendation was that this process should be streamlined. They recommended that the VA seek a statutory change authorizing the VA to fill prescriptions written by a veteran's family doctor.

The thing that is very important to note is Members here, care, that IG indicated this change would save some $1.3 billion. Now, that cost savings can be plowed back into the veterans' health care and buy a lot of health care and clearly a lot of pharmaceutical drugs for veterans.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would hope that the chairman of the subcommittee would drop his request for the point of order. It clearly is appropriate to the bill, especially in light of the fact that this amendment would save the VA budget some $1.3 billion.

POINT OF ORDER

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) insist on his point of order?

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I do.

I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation on an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 rule XXI. The rule states in part: ''An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.''

This amendment directly amends existing law, and I would ask for a ruling of the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN. Does anyone wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Chairman, I do, and in closing and in response to the point of order being raised by the gentleman from New York, I cannot dispute that. In part there is legislating contained in this amendment. But in large part, and I think the gentleman would agree, if in fact the IG is even close to the mark, saving $1.3 billion in the legislation that the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from West Virginia took so much time to put together, and did such a great job on, would come in handy for providing payment for these prescription drugs that these veterans are getting.

But I think the gentleman is accurate in his assessment, and I ask the Chair to rule.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair will rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment directly amends existing law. The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained and the amendment is not in order.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) may offer his remaining four amendments to this title en bloc, may debate them for 16 minutes, equally divided, and I retain rights to reserve points of order on this en bloc amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair would ask the gentleman from New York to give the Chair a better explanation of the time division.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, the idea is to provide each side with 8 minutes to discuss these four amendments en bloc. The gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and I have discussed this, and I believe he finds it acceptable.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. There will be 16 minutes for the Filner amendments en bloc, equally divided 8 minutes per side, and all amendments thereto.

AMENDMENTS NO. 1, 2, 4, AND 5 OFFERED BY MR. FILNER

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, I offer amendments No. 1, 2, 4, and 5.

□ 2000

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendments:

The text of the amendments is as follows:

Amendments numbered 1, 2, 4 and 5 offered by Mr. FILNER:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

At the end of title I, add the following new section:

SEC. ____. (a) MEDICAL CARE.—In addition to amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs elsewhere in this Act, there is hereby appropriated $1,700,000,000 for ''Medical Care''.

(b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—The entire amount made available in this section is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

At the end of title I, add the following new section:

SEC. ____. (a) COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS.—In addition to amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs elsewhere in this Act, there is hereby appropriated $3,000,000 for ''Compensation and Pensions'', to be available only to establish a presumption of service-connection for the occurrence of Hepatitis C in veterans who were exposed to Hepatitis C risk factors during active military, naval, or air service.

(b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—The entire amount made available in this section is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

At the end of title I, add the following new section:

SEC. ____. (a) MEDICAL RESEARCH.—In addition to amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs elsewhere in this Act, there is hereby appropriated $24,000,000 for ''Medical Research''.

(b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—The entire amount made available in this section is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

AMENDMENT NO. 5

At the end of title I, add the following new section:

SEC. ____. (a) READJUSTMENT BENEFITS.—In addition to amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs elsewhere in this Act, there is hereby appropriated $871,700,000 for ''Readjustment Benefits''. The provisions of H.R. 320 of the 107th Congress, as introduced, are hereby enacted into law, and the amount provided by this section shall be available only for the purpose of increases in benefits in the Montgomery GI Bill program made by those provisions.

(b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—The entire amount made available in this section is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order against the en bloc amendments.

The CHAIRMAN. A point of order is reserved against the en bloc amendments.

The gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 8 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I have a series of amendments with regard to the Veterans Administration budget.

The chairman of the subcommittee and the ranking member know that all of the Members of this body hold the view that their commitment to veterans cannot be challenged, nor can the commitment of our chair and ranking members of the authorizing committee.

Yet because of the budget situation we are in and notwithstanding improvements to the veterans budget over the last couple of years, the veterans budget is still grossly underfunded. As we like to say on the Democratic side at the Veterans Committee, we do not have a surplus unless we have paid our bills. We have not paid our bills to our Nation's veterans. We have not kept our commitment. We have not honored our contract.

My amendments try to put the money that would indicate our commitment back into this budget. I have the money designated as an emergency because, under the rules of House, otherwise I would have to take offsets to those agencies within this particular bill. I do not want to play off housing or environment or science against the needs of our veterans.

I will state that there is an emergency out there, Mr. Chairman. We have veterans who are waiting months and months and months, sometimes

years for the adjudication of their claims. We have veterans waiting 5, 6, 8 months to see a doctor. We have veterans with hepatitis C, recently diagnosed, having emerged after 20 years, a fatal disease that we do not have sufficient understanding of or resources to treat.

We are condemning our veterans to die. We have not figured out how to provide long-range care. We have not done what we should have for the homeless veterans, 500,000 of whom are on the street tonight. We do not put sufficient money into medical research. Eleven or 12 years after the Gulf War, we do not have any understanding of or treatment for Persian Gulf War illness. Hundreds of thousands of veterans are suffering from that.

Mr. Chairman, we have the resources in our society to say to those who are under the GI bill for education, let us make that GI bill really effective.

Mr. Principi, who is now the Veterans Administration Secretary, wrote a report before he became Secretary when he was chairman of the so-called Transition Commission; and he proposed that the Montgomery GI bill for education fully fund education, tuition and fees at college, plus books, plus expenses, plus a stipend of roughly $1,000 a month. That would make that benefit real. That would give the veterans what they earned, and that would be a great recruitment tool for our forces.

Yet, what do we do now? We give a $500 or $600 a month stipend. Most veterans cannot use that because it is insufficient. So I am asking in my amendments for what we just owe our veterans and what we have the money for.

Our budget is based on the fact that we just passed the tax cut this year of about $2 trillion over the next decade. That leaves us without paying our debt to our veterans.

How do I know how much money is needed? The Chair of the committee is often saying, no matter what money we give, everybody wants more. I will tell my colleagues, all the veterans' service organizations of our country got together and produced something called the independent budget. It is a very analytical and professional job. It does not just say, give me more money because I am a veteran. It says, put in this much money to the veterans' benefit administration so we can reduce the waiting times for adjudication to 30 days. It says, put in the amount of money we need so we do not have to wait 6 months for doctors. It says, put in the money for research so we can deal with Persian Gulf War illness and we can deal with post-traumatic stress syndrome.

The veterans know what we need and we know we are not giving it to them, Mr. Chairman. We had on the floor earlier statements from the committee and from the authorizing committee that says we are doing everything we can for our veterans. I would challenge those colleagues to go with me to any town meeting anywhere in America and say to our veterans, we are doing what we should be doing for you. They would not be given a very good reception.

Mr. Chairman, I ask for an additional $1.7 billion for the health care of our veterans. The billion dollars that the Chair refers to that increased this year does not even keep up with inflation. We have got to at least keep up with inflation and move forward on a whole variety of efforts.

I have asked for money to make sure that veterans who are exposed to hepatitis C, probably a fatal disease, get the treatment and care that they need. I have asked that we fully fund the Montgomery GI bill at the level that is asked for in legislation that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) has introduced. I ask for research money to make sure that the VA, which has been in the forefront of research on a whole variety of things, a national resource that has been kept us and this Nation in the forefront of medical research.

We can keep those efforts in an excellent capacity. We can give the veterans the benefits they deserve. As our veterans are older, long-term care becomes more important. The aging of our population requires more resources and a different kind of attention.

And whether we are talking about the Persian Gulf illnesses, PTSD, Parkinson's disease, mental health illnesses, spinal cord injuries or heart disease, these are areas where we can give our veterans the treatment and care and attention they deserve.

So if we are to keep the promises that we made to our Nation's veterans, we should provide a budget that will address these needs.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support these amendments, to allow the designation of an emergency, to really show the veterans, the country which has produced this incredible surplus, they gave us this country and we owe it to them.

I know my colleague will ask for a point of order based on the fact that these are emergency designations. Come on, let us treat our veterans as real colleagues. Let us say it is an emergency. Let us give them the attention they need.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my colleague's amendment which would restore the purchasing power of the GI bill.

I was encouraged earlier this session by the House's passage of H.R. 1291, the 21st Century Montgomery GI Bill Enhancement Act, which provided a modest and much needed increase to the GI bill's monthly benefits.

At a time when drastic tax cuts have overshadowed our nation's priorities, it was refreshing that the House took up legislation that improved education benefits for service men and women.

Educational benefits are the military's best recruiting tool, and the GI bill must be modernized to meet today's demands.

However, while this measure provides a stronger education package to the men and women who choose to serve our country in uniform, I regret that we could not have achieved more.

Ultimately, unfortunately, the cost of this legislation was considered too prohibitive after the Administrations $1.35 billion tax cut.

Tax cuts precluded Mr. EVANS the ranking member, from offering his amendment during subcommittee mark-up of H.R. 1291, which was abruptly canceled.

H.R. 320, the Montgomery GI Bill Improvements Act, which Mr. EVANS intended to offer as an amendment, would have significantly improved educational benefits for veterans by covering the full cost of tuition, fees, books and supplies as well as provide a subsistence allowance for those who enlist or reenlist for four years.

Mr. FILNER's amendment mirrors the objectives of H.R. 320 and would give the Montgomery GI bill a much needed boost and move us closer to offering a competitive education package for the men and women who served our country with their military service.

POINT OF ORDER

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from New York insist on his point of order?

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I insist on my point of order.

Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and therefore violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part: ''An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.''

This amendment includes an emergency designation under section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and, as such, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI, and I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, I wish to be heard on the point of order.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, I understand the technical basis for the point of order. I know the commitment that the Chair has for veterans, and I ask the gentleman to see beyond the technicalities. The gentleman knows his bill contains legislation that has not come before this House. He knows his bill contains emergency funds.

Mr. Chairman, this is not asking for any radical kind of move for this House. This is asking to make the commitment to our Nation's veterans that we have in our budget, the ability to do.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair is prepared to rule.

The Chair finds that the amendment en bloc includes an emergency designation under section 251(b)(2)(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 in each constituent part of the amendment en bloc.

Based on a ruling of the Chair on June 19, 2000, on a similar amendment, the amendment en bloc constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

HOUSING CERTIFICATE FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER AND RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For activities and assistance to prevent the involuntary displacement of low-income families, the elderly and the disabled because of the loss of affordable housing stock, expiration of subsidy contracts (other than contracts for which amounts are provided under another heading in this Act) or expiration of use restrictions, or other changes in housing assistance arrangements, and for other purposes, $16,334,242,000, of which $640,000,000 shall be from unobligated balances from amounts recaptured from fiscal year 2000 and prior years pursuant to a reduction in the amounts provided for Annual Contributions Contract Reserve Accounts, and amounts that are recaptured in this account to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not later than October 1, 2001, the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall reduce from sixty days to thirty days the amount of reserve funds made available to public housing authorities: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, $16,125,241,000, of which $11,285,241,000 and the aforementioned recaptures shall be available on October 1, 2001 and $4,200,000,000 shall be available on October 1, 2002, shall be for assistance under the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended (''the Act'' herein) (42 U.S.C. 1437): *Provided further*, That the foregoing amounts shall be for use in connection with expiring or terminating section 8 subsidy contracts, for amendments to section 8 subsidy contracts, for enhanced vouchers (including amendments and renewals) under any provision of law authorizing such assistance under section 8(t) of the Act (47 U.S.C. 1437f(t)), contract administrators, and contracts entered into pursuant to section 441 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act: *Provided further*, That amounts available under the first proviso under this heading shall be available for section 8 rental assistance under the Act: (1) for the relocation and replacement of housing units that are demolished or disposed of pursuant to the Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–134; Stat. 1321–269); (2) for the conversion of section 23 projects to assistance under section 8; (3) for funds to carry out the family unification program; (4) for the relocation of witnesses in connection with efforts to combat crime in public and assisted housing pursuant to a request from a law enforcement or prosecution agency; (5) for tenant protection assistance, including replacement and relocation assistance; and (6) for the 1-year renewal of section 8 contracts for units in a project that is subject to an approved plan of action under the Emergency Low Income Housing Preservation Act of 1987 or the Low-Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act of 1990: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, no less than $11,000,000 shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund for the development and maintenance of information technology systems: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, up to $197,246,000 shall be made available for incremental vouchers under section 8 of the Act, of which $157,334,000 shall be made available on a fair share basis to those public housing agencies that have a 97 percent occupancy rate; and of which $39,912,000 shall be made available to nonelderly disabled families affected by the designation of a public housing development under section 7 of the Act, the establishment of preferences in accordance with section 651 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13611), or the restriction of occupancy to elderly families in accordance with section 658 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 13618), and to the extent the Secretary determines that such amount is not needed to fund applications for such affected families, to other nonelderly disabled families: *Provided further*, That up to $195,600,730 from amounts available under this heading may be made available for administrative fees and other expenses to cover the cost of administering rental assistance programs under section 8 of the Act: *Provided further*, That the fee otherwise authorized under section 8(q) of such Act shall be determined in accordance with section 8(q), as in effect immediately before the enactment of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998: *Provided further*, That $886,000,000 is rescinded from unobligated balances remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this heading or the heading ''Annual contributions for assisted housing'' or any other heading for fiscal year 2001 and prior years: *Provided further*, That any such balances governed by reallocation provisions under the statute authorizing the program for which the funds were originally appropriated shall not be available for this rescission: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall have until September 30, 2002, to meet the rescission in the proviso preceding the immediately preceding proviso: *Provided further*, That any obligated balances of contract authority that have been terminated shall be canceled.

PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the Public Housing Capital Fund Program to carry out capital and management activities for public housing agencies, as authorized under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1437g), $2,555,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003: *Provided*, That, hereafter, notwithstanding any other provision of law or any failure of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to issue regulations to carry out section 9(j) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(j)), such section is deemed to have taken effect on October 1, 1998, and, except as otherwise provided in this heading, shall apply to all assistance made available under this same heading on or after such date: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, in addition to amounts otherwise allocated under this heading, $262,000,000 shall be allocated for such capital and management activities only among public housing agencies that have obligated all assistance for the agency for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 made available under this same heading in accordance with the requirements under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 9(j) of such Act (except that the provisions of section 9(j)(4) shall not apply to such amounts): *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, the Secretary may not delegate to any Department official other than the Deputy Secretary any authority under paragraph (2) of such section 9(j) regarding the extension of the time periods under such section for obligation of amounts made available for fiscal year 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, or 2002: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the first proviso and paragraphs (3) and (5)(B) of such section 9(j), if at any time before the effectiveness of final regulations issued by the Secretary under section 6(j) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437d(j)) providing for assessment of public housing agencies and designation of high-performing agencies, any amounts made available under the public housing Capital Fund for fiscal year 1999, 2000, 2001, or 2002 remain unobligated in violation of paragraph (1) of such section 9(j) or unexpended in violation of paragraph (5)(A) of such section 9(j), the Secretary shall immediately recapture any such amounts and reallocate such amounts among public housing agencies that, at the time of such reallocation, are not in violation of any requirement under paragraph (1) or (5)(A) of such section: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this heading, the term ''obligate'' means, with respect to amounts, that the amounts are subject to a binding agreement that will result in outlays immediately or in the future: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, up to $51,000,000 shall be for carrying out activities under section 9(h) of such Act, of which up to $10,000,000 shall be for the provision of remediation services to public housing agencies identified as ''troubled'' under the Section 8 Management Assessment Program: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, up to $500,000 shall be for lease adjustments to section 23 projects, and no less than $43,000,000 shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund for the development and maintenance of information technology systems: *Provided further*, That no funds may be used under this heading for the purposes specified in section 9(k) of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, up to $75,000,000 shall be available for the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to public housing agencies for emergency capital needs resulting from emergencies and natural disasters in fiscal year 2002.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

In title II, in the item relating to ''PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING—PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL FUND'', after the aggregate dollar amount, insert the following: ''(reduced by $100,000,000)''.

In title II, in the item relating to ''PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING—REVITALIZATION OF SEVERELY DISTRESSED PUBLIC HOUSING (HOPE VI)'', after the aggregate dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $100,000,000)''.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, the concentration of poverty, any way one looks at it, simply stated is not productive. It is inhumane, unethical. It is not diverse and does not work.

According to the 1999 census data, 32.3 million people in the United States live in poverty. That gives us a poverty rate of 11.8 percent. The National Coalition reports as many as 3 million people are homeless during the course of a year. Of this number, 80,000 of them are in the City of Chicago. The concept of mixing income in neighborhoods offers the best practice of hope for low-income individuals.

Chicago, one of the most poverty-stricken cities in the Nation, has a tremendous need to uplift the quality of life for its residents. Currently, in Chicago the Robert Taylor and Rockwell Gardens developments, two of the most well-known public housing developments in the country, are in separate need of Hope VI funding which will allow integration and economic prosperity.

I stand today, Mr. Chairman, to beg, to implore, to appeal to the entire 107th Congress, and to argue to increase the funding for this program by $100 million. Hope VI provides disadvantaged families and communities across the country with opportunities for revitalization and new chances, chances for advancement.

All of us would probably agree, Mr. Chairman, that it is time to tear down the high-rise public housing developments, the high-rises, as we know them, the concentrations of poverty. These families need hope and an adequate chance. It is time to fight inner city crime, teen pregnancy, high unemployment, which are all concentrated in the urban ghettos that exist in this Nation centered around high-rise public housing developments.

□ 2015

To improve the quality of life for these families, it is necessary to improve the quality of public housing. We can do that by providing the necessary support services, the programs, that encourage residents to go to school, find employment, develop careers, and realize a better quality of life. All of this is found in HOPE VI.

By 1999, HOPE VI had provided benefits to 7,840 current resident families, including 4,076 families relocated to section 8 in new units, 5,668 new families in revitalized development, 1,969 families leaving TANF, and a 98 percent increase of youth participation in self-sufficiency programs. HOPE VI had achieved leveraged ratios of 31 cents for every dollar in 1993 and increased this ratio to $2.07 by 1999. HOPE VI revitalization has reduced the average density of on-site development from 23 to 11 and the average percentage of very low income families from 92 to 35 percent. The ultimate outcome of these developments has improved the quality of life for residents of HOPE VI developments and better integration into the overall community.

The city of Chicago has a bold new transformation plan for public housing, and, that is to replace the high-rises with mixed-income housing where individuals can interact with different-type persons across the board. But that transformation plan is contingent upon being able to receive assistance from HOPE VI. Unless there is adequate funding for HOPE VI, then we run the risk of going to the well and there being no water, of going to the trough and there being no substance.

And so I would urge, Mr. Chairman, that we support this amendment and continue to give hope to the millions of people who need hope and can receive it through the HOPE VI program.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment would cut $100 million from the Public Housing Capital Fund in order to increase the HOPE VI program. As has been discussed today, we have already reduced the capital program for public housing. So I do not think it is a good idea to go any further.

The bill provides for $573 million in the HOPE VI program which is at the same level as last year. As the gentleman knows, the bill already includes a reduction below last year for capital fund based on the unspent fund problem. There are approximately $7 billion in unspent funds in the capital fund. There has been a lot of discussion and opposition to cutting it further or even cutting it that much. However, we do maintain funding for those public housing authorities which are actually spending their funds.

The gentleman's amendment would cut $100 million of the $262 million we have targeted to those high-performing public housing authorities in order to provide a 17 percent increase in HOPE VI. While I appreciate his support for HOPE VI, I must point out that, like the Public Housing Capital Fund, HOPE VI is another account where there are significant amounts of unspent funds. In fact, there are over $3 billion in unspent HOPE VI funds. So while I share the gentleman's support for the program, I cannot support cutting the capital fund further in order to provide a 17 percent increase in the HOPE VI program and, therefore, I urge the rejection of the amendment.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, if someone is doing an illustrated dictionary and needs perhaps a metaphorical or a dictionary of figures of speech and wants to illustrate the phrase ''robbing Peter to pay Paul,'' that is the dilemma we are in now.

I know the gentleman from Illinois who cares deeply about lower income people is as unhappy as many of us on this side in particular are at this kind of choice. I admire his commitment to the HOPE VI program which has been a very important one, because HOPE VI has been extremely useful in my district. My dilemma is that we also have a problem with public housing capital funds. And so, Mr. Chairman, Members who are undecided as to how to vote on this will get no guidance from me. They seem on the whole to do without that in general, so that is okay. But this is important because it underlines the tragedy that this bill represents. It quite literally sets the poor against the poor, lower income working people against lower income working people, public housing against subsidized housing for the elderly, anticrime/drug efforts in public housing against efforts to rehabilitate that housing.

This indicates how terribly inadequate this bill is. The gentleman from New York said no matter how much money there was, people would say it was inadequate. I have to tell him he is wrong, and I hope he will test us someday. Come in here with a bill that does not cut virtually every program in real terms.

Let us talk about the public housing situation. The public housing operating budget is cut in real terms. We are told it gets an increase, but out of that increase they are supposed to pay the higher utility bills. By the way, the Secretary of HUD when he testified before our committee and was asked what the budget assumed, the operating budget for public housing regarding fuel bills, he told us he did not endorse this. He, as a good soldier, told us that the Energy Department had instructed him to say that the expectation is that fuel bills next year will be lower for the housing authorities and, therefore, they were to get less money for that. They are to get some additional money and out of that pay for the public housing drug elimination program. On the capital funds, it has already been reduced some. We are told, well, it is reduced because they have not spent it all. They have not spent it all in part because you do not spend responsibly right away, you have to do capital planning, and they are doing this.

This bill underfunds virtually every category where we are dealing with housing. Public housing in particular deserves our attention. I quoted before the President's laudable sentiment that he would not leave any child behind. More poor children live in public housing than in any other segment obviously of our society.

And we are talking about this terrible choice. The gentleman from Illinois is not attacking public housing. The HOPE VI program helps public housing. What we are talking about here, as he correctly brings to us with this amendment, is this terrible choice about public housing. Which aspect of it will we underfund the worst? Will we let the projects deteriorate in general with inadequate capital funding? Will we allow, under HOPE VI, some concentration to improve them?

There are other areas of problems. I will be getting later to the question of the Federal Housing Administration. I want to stress again, it is not simply the poor and lower income working people who are being hurt by this Congress' failure and this administration's refusal adequately to fund things, the FHA program that builds multiple family housing for middle-income people has been shut down for months for want of $40 million; and it will turn out later that they are, in fact, overcharging in other FHA programs, we are told by more than $50 million.

So this amendment is to me a terrible dilemma. We have two very valuable programs that serve the poorest people in this society, and we have to

choose between them. The President said we need to do a tax cut of that magnitude because it is not the government's money, it is the people's money. People live in public housing. The government does not live in public housing. The residents of public housing are people who are in need. This dilemma is brought upon us by that irresponsible tax cut.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) will be postponed.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I had planned to offer an amendment regarding the National Science Foundation, an amendment that would help assure some much-needed expertise in scientific project management for the National Science Foundation. Rather than offer an amendment that might not have an appropriate dollar amount, I would like to engage in a colloquy with the distinguished gentleman from New York concerning the construction of scientific facilities and instruments provided in the National Science Foundation appropriation.

First let me congratulate the gentleman from New York and the Committee on Appropriations as well as his staff for the well-thought-out NSF appropriation. As he knows, NSF's primary mission includes funding peer-reviewed, investigator-initiated research by individuals or small groups. This is an operation that the NSF has managed well. However, NSF has seen its role in funding larger projects such as the construction of radio and optical telescopes expand significantly in recent years. Problems encountered in the management of some of these projects and concerns raised by the NSF inspector general suggest that the NSF may not have an adequate plan, adequate experience or adequate resources with which to effectively oversee these large-ticket projects. Indeed, language in the President's budget blueprint directs NSF to develop a plan "to enhance its capability to estimate costs and provide oversight of project development and construction."

Does the Committee on Appropriations share these concerns?

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. We do. The Committee on Appropriations shares the gentleman's concern concerning the current lack of oversight for project management within the National Science Foundation. In its March 2000 report to Congress, the Inspector General of the National Science Foundation reported that "NSF does not have adequate policies and procedures in place to address the complex problems involved in overseeing and administering large infrastructure awards." This is why the committee report included language directing NSF to establish project management procedures and accounting systems.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Reclaiming my time, I think that is excellent. The National Science Foundation is currently drafting a facilities management and oversight plan and is expected to present a final draft to the National Science Board at their August meeting. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Research, I will be holding a hearing early in September to review this policy and try to ensure that it will adequately address concerns with regard to accounting, appropriate management, and construction oversight of NSF projects.

Scientific experiments are, by their nature, high-risk ventures that challenge the state of the art, if you will, in a number of technologies. As a result, these projects require rigorous cost and schedule control systems so that management can identify problems early and minimize the impact on the total project cost and success. Just as importantly, these projects require a management team that is extremely knowledgeable about the underlying science and has extensive experience in the management of large-scale, complex scientific projects.

I hope that our two committees can continue to work together to ensure that NSF has the resources and personnel it needs to manage these large, taxpayer-supported projects.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, the committee shares the gentleman's goal of providing NSF with sufficient resources to adequately manage and safeguard the taxpayer's investment. As he noted, NSF is increasingly involved in the construction of these large complex scientific experiments and facilities. It is also increasingly reliant on detailees and other temporary employees to supplement their Federal workforce. A cadre of experienced Federal project management professionals would certainly improve the institutional memory and accountability within NSF.

□ 2030

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I look forward to continue working with the gentleman from New York (Chairman WALSH), and certainly the ranking member, to assure that we maintain the high standards for quality in research equipment and construction projects as has been very evident in the excellent past work of NSF in research.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for bringing this issue before us. I look forward to working with the gentleman in the future.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

PUBLIC HOUSING OPERATING FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For payments to public housing agencies for the operation and management of public housing, as authorized by section 9(e) of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1437g(e)), $3,494,868,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, $10,000,000 shall be provided to the Office of Inspector General for Operation Safe Home: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, $10,000,000 shall be for programs, as determined appropriate by the Attorney General, which assist in the investigation, prosecution, and prevention of violent crimes and drug offenses in public and federally-assisted low-income housing: *Provided further*, That funds made available in the previous proviso shall be administered by the Department of Justice through a reimbursable agreement with the Department of Housing and Urban Development: *Provided further*, That no funds may be used under this heading for the purposes specified in section 9(k) of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended.

REVITALIZATION OF SEVERELY DISTRESSED PUBLIC HOUSING (HOPE VI)

For grants to public housing agencies for demolition, site revitalization, replacement housing, and tenant-based assistance grants to projects as authorized by section 24 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended, $573,735,000 to remain available until September 30, 2003, of which the Secretary may use up to $5,000,000 for technical assistance and contract expertise, to be provided directly or indirectly by grants, contracts or cooperative agreements, including training and cost of necessary travel for participants in such training, by or to officials and employees of the department and of public housing agencies and to residents: *Provided*, That none of such funds shall be used directly or indirectly by granting competitive advantage in awards to settle litigation or pay judgments, unless expressly permitted herein.

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANTS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the Native American Housing Block Grants program, as authorized under title I of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) (25 U.S.C. 411 et seq.), $648,570,000, to remain available until expended, of which $2,200,000 shall be contracted through the Secretary as technical assistance and capacity building to be used by the National American Indian Housing Council in support of the implementation of NAHASDA; of which $5,000,000 shall be to support the inspection of Indian housing units, contract expertise, and technical assistance in the training, oversight, and management of Indian housing and tenant-based assistance, including up to $300,000 for related travel; and of which no less than $2,000,000 shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund for the development and maintenance of information technology systems: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, $5,987,000 shall be made available for the cost of guaranteed notes and other obligations, as authorized by title VI of NAHASDA: *Provided further*, That such costs, including the costs of modifying such notes and other obligations, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize the total principal amount of any notes and other obligations, any part of

which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed $52,726,000: *Provided further*, That for administrative expenses to carry out the guaranteed loan program, up to $150,000 from amounts in the first proviso, which shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for ''Salaries and expenses'', to be used only for the administrative costs of these guarantees.

INDIAN HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by section 184 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13a), $5,987,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the costs of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed $234,283,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the guaranteed loan program, up to $200,000 from amounts in the first paragraph, which shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for ''Salaries and expenses'', to be used only for the administrative costs of these guarantees.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS

For carrying out the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program, as authorized by the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act (42 U.S.C. 12901), $277,432,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003: *Provided*, That the Secretary may use up to $2,000,000 of the funds under this heading for training, oversight, and technical assistance activities.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For assistance to units of State and local government, and to other entities, for economic and community development activities, and for other purposes, $4,801,993,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003: *Provided*, That of the amount provided, $4,399,300,000 is for carrying out the community development block grant program under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (the ''Act'' herein) (42 U.S.C. 5301): *Provided further*, That $69,000,000 shall be for grants to Indian tribes notwithstanding section 106(a)(1) of such Act; $3,300,000 shall be available as a grant to the Housing Assistance Council; $2,794,000 shall be available as a grant to the National American Indian Housing Council; $5,000,000 shall be available as a grant to the National Housing Development Corporation, for operating expenses not to exceed $2,000,000 and for a program of affordable housing acquisition and rehabilitation; $5,000,000 shall be available as a grant to the National Council of La Raza for the HOPE Fund, of which $500,000 is for technical assistance and fund management, and $4,500,000 is for investments in the HOPE Fund and financing to affiliated organizations; and $34,424,000 shall be for grants pursuant to section 107 of the Act: *Provided further*, That no less than $15,000,000 shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund for the development and maintenance of information technology systems: *Provided further*, That $21,956,000 shall be for grants pursuant to the Self Help Housing Opportunity Program: *Provided further*, That not to exceed 20 percent of any grant made with funds appropriated under this heading (other than a grant made available in this paragraph to the Housing Assistance Council or the National American Indian Housing Council, or a grant using funds under section 107(b)(3) of the Act) shall be expended for ''Planning and Management Development'' and ''Administration'' as defined in regulations promulgated by the Department.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MS. VELAZQUEZ

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 22 offered by Ms. VELAZQUEZ:

In title II, in the item relating to ''COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT—COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND'', after the aggregate dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

In title II, in the item relating to ''COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT—COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND'', after the dollar amount specified for Youthbuild program activities, insert the following: ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

In title II, in the item relating to ''MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION—SALARIES AND EXPENSES'', after the aggregate dollar amount, insert the following: ''(reduced by $10,000,000)''.

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, my amendment will increase funding for the YouthBuild program by $10 million. We are in the midst of an affordable housing crisis in this country. One of our most basic needs is to increase access to safe, affordable housing. That is why I am so concerned about the significant underfunding of so many of our most vital housing programs. Not only do many of our communities face a shortage of housing stock, but much of what is currently available is in disrepair and cannot be lived in.

That is where YouthBuild comes in. This program involves young people in meaningful work in their communities, constructing or rehabilitating much-needed homes for homeless and low-income people. Projects range from rehabilitating 10-unit buildings to constructing new single-family homes.

Finished buildings are rented as affordable housing. Sometimes they represent opportunities for low-income community residents to buy their first homes. As a result, housing that is substandard is transformed into attractive homes in communities where there is a critical need for housing.

As my colleagues are aware, the YouthBuild program provides grants on a competitive basis to nonprofit organizations to assist high-risk youth between the ages of 16 to 24 to learn housing construction job skills and to complete their high school education. What is more, program participants enhance their skills as they construct or rehabilitate affordable housing for low- and moderate-income persons. In fact, to date, more than 7,000 units of housing have been produced by YouthBuild participants.

As they develop these marketable skills which will allow them to secure future employment, they are contributing to the revitalization of their community, and they are doing it in conjunction with the many community-based organizations, local small businesses and international corporations who have provided matching funds for these programs.

YouthBuild is currently training 6,500 people at 145 sites in 43 States. While this is certainly commendable, we could and should be reaching so many more people and places. In fiscal year 2000, HUD received 273 YouthBuild applications but could only fund 78 of them. And while we should be increasing funding for this important program to allow every applicant to receive funding, it is instead funded well below the need.

What do we say to an 18-year-old kid who wants to get into the construction trade but cannot get training? ''I am sorry, the funding is not there. You will have to find another way.''

Although YouthBuild deserves a significant increase, given the current budget restraints, I am merely asking that this vital program receive an additional $10 million in fiscal year 2002. With this increase, we will provide aid to over 100 communities nationwide.

My amendment offsets this increase by taking an equivalent amount from HUD's Salaries and Expenses account, which receives a $25 million increase. It stands to reason that if we can afford the money to implement a program that requires our neediest citizens to work for free, then we should provide the funding necessary to give these people access to job training.

This is an amendment that everyone can support. If one supports promoting self-sufficiency and community involvement for at-risk youth, one should support the YouthBuild program. If one agrees that we are in a housing crisis and affordable housing that these programs produce will be valuable to our communities, one should vote for this amendment.

I hope that Members will support this amendment and work with me to begin a dialogue on the productive, successful means of promoting self-sufficiency.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the Velazquez amendment.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I am reluctant to oppose my good friend and colleague from New York who does such a great job for our State, but its difficulty is that the cut that has been proposed in the HUD Salaries and Expenses account would force HUD to either cut over 100 staff members in order to provide the 17 percent increase in YouthBuild, or find some other accommodation, which I think would dramatically affect HUD's ability to operate and administer its programs.

Last year, the YouthBuild program received a 17 percent increase in the fiscal year 2001 bill, and that increase was maintained in 2002.

This is obviously a very difficult choice, but I would ask Members to stay with the subcommittee bill; and, therefore, I would oppose the amendment, which would provide another significant increase to a program that was increased dramatically last year at the expense of HUD's staff.

Therefore, I urge rejection of the amendment.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, the Sonoma County People for Economic Opportunity in Santa Rosa, California, my district, operates a successful YouthBuild program, one that could actually be set up as a model across this Nation.

I am absolutely pleased and proud to stand in strong support of this amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) to increase funding for YouthBuild. In fact, if I had my way, we would set a path in this Nation so that every single year we would increase the YouthBuild program by at least 17 percent.

While building and remodeling homes for low-income families, YouthBuild-Santa Rosa participants literally rebuild their own lives. YouthBuild participants, who are unemployed young people between the ages of 16 and 24, learn construction skills that start them down a career path to a lifetime of well-paid jobs, jobs they can actually afford to raise a family on.

If a participant does not have a high school diploma, it is possible, encouraged and mandated that they complete their education, with strong support from mentors, tutors and learning labs.

YouthBuild programs help young people to develop personal and family living skills as they develop their life goals and their life plans. We know they do a good job, because 85 percent of the participants who completed their YouthBuild program went on to either attend college or to take good jobs. With the tools and skills they learn at YouthBuild, young people take control over their future. They do not become a burden to their communities. They do become contributors to their communities and to our country.

YouthBuild programs are great investments. I urge my colleagues to support the Velazquez amendment; and I urge that we increase the funding for YouthBuild, not just this year but every year in the future.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

(Mr. OWENS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chairman, everybody says that they want to do things for young people. They recognize they are a special problem. But when you have a perfect program like YouthBuild, we have a great deal of difficulty getting it continued and expanded.

YouthBuild is the perfect program in terms of maximum participation and use of resources by the people who are being helped and minimum bureaucracy, minimum overhead. I have a YouthBuild program in my district, and it functions in the poorest community in my district, in one of the poorest communities in the United States.

Brownsville is a community that has many indices that run parallel in a negative way. No matter how you look at it, the number of young people who are in juvenile delinquency programs, the number of AIDS cases, the low level of education, the low reading levels, that community has every strike against it, and young people have a rough time.

But the YouthBuild program has a director who came aboard several years ago and said, ''If you want to be in this program, no alcohol, no drugs. You have got to be here on time, and you have got to be here frequently. One or two absences, and you are out.'' Yet the program has a long waiting list.

Young people see the program as having a concrete and immediate consequence. They see themselves being able to get a job. They also are required to get a high school diploma at the same time.

You have some other features in this program which run parallel to some of the kinds of things that are being talked about at great length nowadays, the faith-based initiatives.

The program that runs in my community would not be there if it was not for the Episcopal Diocese working in cooperation with the community. A large investment was made by the Episcopal Diocese. They have helped to keep the program going and develop it, and now the program has been able to get funding from other sources.

YouthBuild on a national level has been able now to attract funding from foundations and from private industry. It is the model of a kind of partnership program that we should all be striving for.

But let us not let the willingness of the private sector to invest or the willingness of foundations to invest be a cop-out for the Federal Government. Why should we bow out of a program that costs very small amounts of money, and I think we are talking about a $10 million increase here? Every year we have asked for very small increases, and the money is definitely directed into the activities and the programs which help the young people.

It has a double impact, of course: the training for the young people, and then they actually do renovation and reconstruction of housing that poor people are able to go into.

So I would like to have us send a message out there, that we are no longer going to continue the present trend of backing away from the sponsorship of meaningful youth programs. In the Department of Labor, we have moved away from the Summer Youth Employment Program. Programs for young people have been relegated to the States to continue. The Summer Youth Employment Program, which was so vital, some States are doing a good job, some are not. But we backed away from that vital program. In general, the funding for youth programs has gone down in the Department of Labor, job training programs of the type offered by YouthBuild.

At the same time that we are backing away from job training programs, the programs that are meaningful in terms of providing occupational development for young people, shortages of all kinds keep developing. We are being told now that school construction in New York City is costing too much because they have a shortage of skilled craftsmen.

□ 2045

We do not have enough carpenters; we do not have enough sheet metal people in the construction industry. We are having a problem of being overpriced because of the great pressure where the demand is greater than the supply in terms of skilled personnel.

Some years ago, we backed away from vocational education in New York City and the Federal Government. And we also ratcheted up the effort to provide vocational education to a new category we call technical education, and we got so technical until it got away from the education of youngsters who could go into some trades that pay very well and that are in demand. Youth Build brings us back to the reality that there are large numbers of young people who will not stay in school they will not go to college, but they are serious and they will respond to an effort where they see a concrete benefit at the end. Youth Build offers a concrete benefit at the end. They have a job doing something in the neighborhood, doing something that not only pays well to begin with, but it promises to pay more and more, and they are encouraged to go into the apprenticeship programs of the various trades.

So for $10 million we get $1 billion worth of response in terms of helping young people. I urge a yes vote for this important amendment.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

I will not take the 5 minutes. I just wonder how many of my colleagues, particularly the chairman and others on the other side of the aisle, who would restrict this program have visited one. I visited them twice in my district, and it is an inspiration to see young people who have dropped out, who are at risk, whose lives could end up being a total mess, back in school and learning construction skills and building housing for low-income families.

Now, what could be a more efficient and more productive use of Federal dollars for housing? We are taking at-risk kids, diverting them from problems, giving them education, teaching them construction skills and building housing for low-income people. This

program could use a 50 percent or a 100 percent increase every year and put tens of thousands of kids back on the right track.

I urge my colleagues to support this very modest amendment to increase this program.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise to strike the requisite number of words.

I thank the gentlewoman from New York for offering this amendment.

I strongly support her efforts to increase the appropriation for YouthBuild by $10 million. The current level of $60 million in the bill flat funds this laudable program—a program that helps at-risk youth learn valuable skills enabling them to gain employment and ultimately break the cycle of poverty. This $10 million increase will make a significant difference.

YouthBuild students work across the country, including in my city and state. In New York City, the unemployment rate is above the national average, and a significant number of these unemployed New Yorkers are young people. Programs like YouthBuild can have a positive impact on our nation's young adults.

The program offers job training, education, counseling, and leadership opportunities to unemployed and out-of-school young adults, ages 16–24, through the construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing in their own communities. Many graduates go on to construction-related jobs or college.

YouthBuild works in conjunction with Community Based Organizations, local small businesses, and international corporations who provide matching funds for these programs.

This is a great initiative we all can support. Not only does YouthBuild help individual young people, but their work benefits many low-income families in our neighborhoods.

I support the Valázquez amendment.

I urge my colleagues to invest in our young people!

Vote in favor of this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there further debate on the pending amendment?

Hearing none, the question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote, and pending that, I make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

Of the amount made available under this heading, $29,387,000 shall be made available for capacity building, of which $24,945,000 shall be made available for ''Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing'' for LISC and the Enterprise Foundation for activities as authorized by section 4 of the HUD Demonstration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 9816 note), as in effect immediately before June 12, 1997, with not less than $4,989,000 of the funding to be used in rural areas, including tribal areas, and of which $4,442,000 shall be for capacity building activities administered by Habitat for Humanity International.

Of the amount made available under this heading, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may use up to $54,879,000 for supportive services for public housing residents, as authorized by section 34 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended, and for residents of housing assisted under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) and for grants for service coordinators and congregate services for the elderly and disabled residents of public and assisted housing and housing assisted under NAHASDA.

Of the amount made available under this heading, $25,000,000 shall be available for neighborhood initiatives that are utilized to improve the conditions of distressed and blighted areas and neighborhoods, to stimulate investment, economic diversification, and community revitalization in areas with population outmigration or a stagnating or declining economic base, or to determine whether housing benefits can be integrated more effectively with welfare reform initiatives: *Provided*, that any unobligated balances of amounts set aside for neighborhood initiatives in fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001 may be utilized for any of the foregoing purposes.

Of the amount made available under this heading, notwithstanding any other provision of law, $59,868,000 shall be available for YouthBuild program activities authorized by subtitle D of title IV of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended, and such activities shall be an eligible activity with respect to any funds made available under this heading: *Provided*, That local YouthBuild programs that demonstrate an ability to leverage private and nonprofit funding shall be given a priority for YouthBuild funding: *Provided further*, That no more than ten percent of any grant award may be used for administrative costs: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided under this paragraph, $2,000,000 shall be set aside and made available for a grant to YouthBuild USA for capacity building for community development and affordable housing activities as specified in section 4 of the HUD Demonstration Act of 1993, as amended.

Of the amount made available under this heading, $77,000,000 shall be available for grants for the Economic Development Initiative (EDI) to finance a variety of economic development efforts.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LOAN GUARANTEES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of guaranteed loans, $14,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003, as authorized by section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed $608,696,000, notwithstanding any aggregate limitation on outstanding obligations guaranteed in section 108(k) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided further*, That in addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the guaranteed loan program, $1,000,000, which shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for ''Salaries and expenses''.

BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT

For Economic Development Grants, as authorized by section 108(q) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, for Brownfields redevelopment projects, $25,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2003: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall make these grants available on a competitive basis as specified in section 102 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989.

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the HOME investment partnerships program, as authorized under title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended, $1,996,040,000 to remain available until September 30, 2003: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, $200,000,000 shall be available for the Downpayment Assistance Initiative, subject to the enactment of subsequent legislation authorizing such initiative: *Provided further*, That should legislation authorizing such initiative not be enacted by June 30, 2002, amounts designated in the previous proviso shall become available for any such purpose authorized under title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading, up to $20,000,000 shall be available for Housing Counseling under section 106 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968; and no less than $17,000,000 shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund for the development and maintenance of information technology systems.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. LA FALCE

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 15 offered by Mr. LAFALCE:

In title II, in the item relating to ''COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT—HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM'', after the aggregate dollar amount, insert the following: ''(reduced by $100,000,000)''.

In title II, in the item relating to ''COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT—HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM'', after the dollar amount specified for the Downpayment Assistance Initiative, insert the following: ''(reduced by $100,000,000)''.

In title II, in the item relating to ''COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT—HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS'', after the aggregate dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $122,600,000)''.

In title II, in the item relating to ''MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION—SALARIES AND EXPENSES'', after the aggregate dollar amount, insert the following: ''(reduced by $22,600,000)''.

(Mr. LAFALCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Chairman, this amendment, which the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) and I are offering jointly, would restore funding cuts made in the bill to vital homeless prevention programs in order to provide sufficient funding to renew expiring rental assistance grants for the disabled, the mentally ill, veterans, and other individuals at risk of homelessness.

One year ago, in a very bipartisan effort, Congress was forced to take emergency action to reinstate funding for

the renewal of homeless Shelter Plus Care, and SHP permanent housing grants which HUD did not renew as part of its continuum of care funding process. This rescued thousands of our most vulnerable Americans from losing their rental assistance and from becoming homeless. In my district alone, almost 200 very low income individuals were threatened with the loss of assistance and the loss of a home.

Learning from this experience, last year's House-passed VA–HUD appropriations bill authorized renewal of expiring Shelter Plus Care grants through the section 8 certificate fund, which would have eliminated the risk of nonrenewal. In conference, the House and Senate agreed to a similar approach establishing a separate $100 million account for expiring Shelter Plus Care grants and directing HUD to develop a mechanism to renew expiring SHP permanent housing grants. Early this year, the administration's budget request was to continue funding this separate renewal account in the amount of $100 million.

So it seems inexplicable to me that the majority has elected to cut this $100 million renewal account. The effect is to reduce funding for homeless programs by $100 million and put tens of thousands of individuals at risk of losing their rental assistance.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness, which strongly supports the amendment of the gentlewoman from California and myself, has written that projects would be shut down in the best of circumstances under this bill, and further pointed out that effective planning would be impossible, and that local communities would be in grave doubt about the ongoing viability of existing projects.

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill has written in strong support of our amendment and notes that the bill would have the effect of undoing last year's farsighted decision by Congress to promote long-term stable funding from HUD and threatened to disrupt successful local programs.

This amendment of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) and myself would avert this crisis by restoring the $100 million cut made to the account to renew Shelter Plus Care grants and providing an additional $22.6 million to renew all SHP permanent housing grants. Specifically, the bill increases the homeless assistance grants account by $122.6 million with the intent in conference to establish a reliable source of renewals, either through the section 8 account or a separate renewal account.

I understand that the majority will argue, as it does in their committee report, that action is not needed at this time to address renewal needs. The problem is that grants which expire on October 1, 2002 and later have no source of funding to renew such grants, except to apply for funding under the fiscal 2002 continuum of care competition. This is because the account established last year for renewals may not be used to renew any grants expiring after fiscal year 2002.

This exposes tens of thousands of at-risk families to the same risk of nonrenewal that we faced last year. However, even if such renewal grants are approved under the competitive award process, many projects will run out of money, and that is because the continuum of care awards have historically been made in December, months after many of the grants run out of money. It is for these reasons that all of the groups that deal with these programs say that the bill does not adequately address the problem of renewals.

I understand that the majority will argue, as it does in their committee report, that action is not needed at this time to address renewal needs. The problem is that grants which expire on October 1st, 2002 and later have no source of funding to renew such grants—except to apply for funding under the FY 2002 continuum of care competition. This is because the account established last year for renewals may not be used to renew any grants expiring after fiscal year 2002.

Finally, I would like to briefly anticipate objections the majority may have with our offset—the 50 percent reduction in new funding the bill provides for the administration's proposed $200 million Downpayment Assistance Initiative. $100 million is more than enough money in the first year for a program that has not even been authorized. If this program is so important, I would ask why the Housing Subcommittee has not even held a hearing on this initiative.

It would also ironic be ironic if the majority insists on $200 million for this initiative, when its very first action on taking over the House six years ago was to eliminate the $50 million in funding for a virtually identical program, the National Homeownership Trust Act, which also block granted funds to states for down payment assistance.

It is interesting to note Republican arguments at that time, that a down payment block grant program authorizes nothing that is not currently allowed under HOME and CDBG. That argument is still valid; apparently the majority no longer wants to emphasize this fact. $6 billion is currently available under these two programs for states, cities, and counties; so it is hard to argue that it is critically that they need all of the $200 million for this new initiative.

Finally, our amendment cuts $22.6 million from the HUD Salaries and Expense Account, still leaving a small increase compared to last year.

So I think we are faced with a simple choice: should we restore homeless funding cuts in this bill, cuts which threaten tens of thousands of individuals with the risk of homelessness—in order to fully fund a new, untested, unauthorized, undebated initiative that is already fully authorized under HOME and CDBG.

I think the choice is obvious. I urge support for the LaFalce-Lee amendment.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. Chairman, this is one of many amendments which goes after the President's initiative to provide funds to low-income families to help them to buy homes. As I mentioned earlier, we have about $16 billion in the bill for section 8 housing vouchers, and I think there has been a high demand for those, and it is a popular program. We have provided additional funds for section 8. Some of those funds will be used in pilot programs around the country to help to encourage low-income families who are now renting to utilize those vouchers for homeownership, to make monthly mortgage payments.

What the President has proposed, and Secretary Martinez has asked us to support, is providing $200 million nationally so that those individuals would be provided with the funds to make that down payment, that big chunk of money that we all know we have to come up with in order to make the initial mortgage deal. The section 8 housing vouchers hopefully will provide the taxpayer and the owner with a very good investment, a very good return on those section 8 vouchers.

So it is an important initiative, and it would be wrong to deny low-income families moving from welfare to work and from tenantship to ownership. Those funds are important. We need to keep those funds where they are.

Now, as far as the homeless program where these funds would be provided, let me just state my feeling. I feel very strongly that we need to provide funds to help people who are homeless to find permanent homes. My first action as city council president in Syracuse back in 1987 was to establish a homeless and housing vulnerable task force. It has been working ever since. The need continues, but I think we have done a very good job in central New York in providing homes for the homeless.

We have provided over $1 billion in this bill for that purpose nationwide. It is an increase, albeit a slight increase, over last year. So the subcommittee's commitment and support for programs to provide help to the homeless is in place.

As I believe the gentleman knows, all fiscal year 2002 renewal costs for Shelter Plus Care programs are fully funded. Mr. Chairman, 2002 is fully funded. The committee has already indicated it would address fiscal year 2003 needs for this program in next year's bill. The committee's action is identical to the way funding for these costs have always been treated with the exception of 2001, and is identical to the way all programs in this bill are treated.

This amendment proposes to treat this program differently than every other program in this bill by using fiscal year 2002 funds to forward-fund fiscal 2003 costs. To do this, the gentleman would cut $100 million out of this very important program, and those funds would be divided amongst the States, including New York's, which would get a large proportion of these funds, and also to 594 cities to help provide affordable housing to members of our communities.

In addition, it would cause HUD to eliminate over 268 jobs by taking $22 million from salaries and expenses.

□ 2100

I believe the real intent behind the gentleman's agreement is to ensure that fiscal year 2003 funding needs for this program do not compete with any other program next year.

While I have sympathy for his desire to essentially create an entitlement program, we cannot support this. We oppose it. It makes no sense to cut funds to States and localities and eliminate HUD employees to set aside funding that is not even needed next year for this program. I would therefore urge rejection of the amendment.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, let me say that the LaFalce-Lee amendment really aims to correct, as we heard, just one piece of this appropriations bill that cuts $1.7 billion in budget authority from HUD's budget.

This amendment is also, incidentally, supported by the United States Conference of Mayors. It restores funding for some of the most vulnerable people in our society, those who are homeless and have the special problem of dealing with mental illness, disabilities, or who are turning around their lives in recovery from alcohol or drug abuse.

The Shelter Plus Care and Supportive Housing Program subsidizes housing for people with these special challenges and also offers continuum of care services for mental illness and other disabilities. For example, in my home district in Alameda County of California, there are approximately 13,000 homeless people and many more at risk for homelessness.

Mr. Chairman, most of these people now more than ever are women and children. In every one of our congressional districts there are homeless people. Shelter Plus Care operates nationwide and helps keep thousands of disabled and mentally ill people from walking the streets at night untreated and with no place to live.

A California study found that supportive housing reduces emergency room services and in-patient hospital stays by more than 57 percent. So with this very small investment we can save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars and provide humane treatment and shelter.

In our affordable housing debate, we talk about rental assistance, we talk about home ownership for low-, moderate-, and middle-income individuals and families, which we all support. But our debate and our initiatives are very devoid of housing issues as it relates to the homeless, so this amendment really does recognize them as deserving of our attention, also.

The offsets to this amendment still leave $100 million for this unauthorized downpayment assistance program. We have not even held hearings yet on this unauthorized program, so we have all supported downpayment assistance programs, even when my colleagues on the other side have not.

This offset leaves intact a net increase also in HUD salaries and expenses over the last fiscal year. So, Mr. Chairman, there is really nothing compassionate about the cuts to HUD, nearly $2 billion in cuts made to fund the nearly $2 billion tax cut. That is not very compassionate, if you ask me.

This bill actually cuts $493 million from public housing programs, including the complete elimination of the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program. It cuts $640 million from Section 8, $322 million from Community Development Block Grants, $200 million from empowerment zones, and $25 million from the Rural Housing and Economic Development Program. So now with this, also, we are really seeing the real impact in the cost of this Bush administration tax cut.

So I guess what I want to ask tonight is, will this Congress really continue to place the burden of the tax cut on the back of the homeless, the mentally ill, and the indigent? What type of a society will we be if we approve this really I think disgraceful bill, if we do not amend it tonight?

I ask Members for an aye vote on this amendment to restore and support decent and humane treatment for our homeless and the mentally ill, who also happen to live in the richest country in the world.

Finally, let me just say that States, counties, and cities will get $6 billion in HOME and CDBG funds in fiscal year 2002 which can be used to do all of the activities authorized under the downpayment housing initiative.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to the amendment offered by my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE). This amendment unfortunately would cut in half the funding for an important initiative proposed by the President to assist low-income families to purchase their own homes.

With this money, he proposes to forward-fund the Shelter Plus Care program. While I am a strong supporter of the Shelter Plus Care program, it is not necessary to add additional funds to the program to ensure that all contract renewals will occur. This funding would then be used to forward-fund contracts in fiscal year 2003.

This would set an unnecessary precedent. I believe the money is put much better to use in the downpayment assistance initiative next year. We must do more to move low-income families into their own homes. This is a critical need that we need to work to address. We know the barriers for low-income families to purchase their own home, and one of the largest is the downpayment.

I cannot understate the importance of this initiative. So many Americans lack the opportunity to purchase a new home and spend a large percentage of their income on their monthly rent. That can be the right choice for some but not for all.

Most families greatly benefit from the purchase of their own homes. A home helps a family create wealth through equity. It also invests them into the community. In short, we help these families rise on the economic ladder and build stronger communities in the process.

It is truly the American dream to own one's own home, a dream we must make a reality for families who currently lack the opportunity to realize this goal.

In addition, the LaFalce amendment cuts $23 million from the salary and expense accounts from HUD. HUD is struggling with real problems these days. They have shut down programs because their mission in recent years has been so spread out that they have been incapable of properly overseeing and implementing the programs that they administer.

Secretary Martinez has been working to refocus HUD on their true core mission, one of providing and facilitating the creation of housing. This is not the time to reduce the resources of HUD.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY), the chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, says he will oppose any amendment that cuts money for the downpayment assistance program of the HOME program. In short, let us work on the funding for the Shelter Plus Care program next year when they really need the funding.

In the meantime, let us fully fund the President's downpayment assistance initiative in this bill by joining me in defeating the LaFalce amendment.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, the gentleman from New York has offered a very thoughtful amendment, once again aimed at helping the people in our society most in need of help.

Now, it is unfortunate that the motif of this bill comes through again. It is so substantially underfunded because the tax cut deprived us of these revenues that it makes a choice between two needy groups.

This choice is a little easier for this reason. The $200 million in the HOME program which has, in this bill, been earmarked for a home ownership program is an interesting example of retrograde behavior on the part of my colleagues on the other side; not the only example, but an interesting one. This one more clearly leads to a repudiation of some of their own professed principles.

The HOME program has been a block grant, in effect. It gives monies to the cities and the consortia with a great deal of flexibility. It had been working very well, apparently too well for the Republican leadership and the President. The President decided he wanted

to do something for poor people, but he did not want to actually spend any new money on doing it.

The President went shopping for the poor, but he unfortunately did not think when we were talking about poor people that he could go to a store, because that requires money, and he gave that away in the tax cut. So the President went to the recycling bin to see what he could find for the poor people.

He found $200 million that had already been assigned to the poor people. This great act of charity that comes forth Members should understand is not additional money. It is an earmarking of $200 million that had previously been sent to the mayors. I should not even say recycling, because that assumes somebody else had discarded it. The mayors had not discarded this. This is something the mayors had been planning to spend.

Indeed, the $200 million for home ownership, again, it is not a new money program. It is $200 million for home ownership taken out of a pot of money that had previously been given as a block grant to the mayors. So it is putting a categorical stamp, to a certain extent, on what had been a block grant program, which the Republicans will do from time to time when they want to, rhetoric to the contrary notwithstanding.

The mayors, the National Conference of Mayors, the League of Cities, do not like this earmark, so the $200 million here is over the objection of the people who have been the administrators of the program and the recipients of the program.

If indeed this amendment were ultimately not to pass, and of course the way we are working it tonight we will not know that for a while, probably until a couple of days until we have these roll calls, or maybe later, I will propose we will cancel out the $200 million earmarks and leave it where the mayors and League of Cities want it to be.

In other words, I think we should go back to the block grant and repudiate this faux gift that comes from the President. He is making a gift of somebody else's money for home ownership.

But, on the merits, we talk about the American dream. Let us first try to alleviate the American nightmare. Let us first try to show a response to the poorest of the poor, the homeless. Can there be in this wealthy society anything less morally tolerable than homeless children? Can anyone let any other program go by while children are still homeless?

The gentleman from New York gives us a chance to remedy that situation, to a certain extent, by taking money that is now being assigned to programs that the people who run the programs do not want. Granted, their first choice would be to have the money on an unrestricted basis, but the way it now stands, that is why we have, from so many mayors, support for this.

The President is also a bad one from that standpoint. HOME has been a very flexible, very well-run block grant. The notion of now letting conservative politicians look generous, not by providing any additional funding for low-income people but by putting restrictions on what has heretofore been a successful, relatively unrestricted set of programs geared to local needs, ought to be rejected.

So I hope this amendment is adopted. If this amendment is not adopted, I will then be offering next the amendment, and we will have the choice when the roll calls come to put all that money at least back into the unrestricted pot.

Let us not allow a situation in which the President plays Santa Claus with money that really should have gone to the mayors and which the mayors would rather see go to alleviating the homeless than not.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, it is horrible to be in a time of tight budgets and deficits. I have been through that in this Congress. But, of course, that is not the case today. But from the debate tonight on the floor, we would think that that was the case.

Earlier we heard, well, we could not afford to improve and enhance veterans' health care. There is just not enough money. We had to make tough choices. They had to make copayments and be deprived of needed health care.

We could not afford more money for the YouthBuild program to help reform youth, get them on a straight path, and build low-income housing.

Now we are being told we have to choose between the downpayment initiative and the Shelter Plus Care program. I thought we had a multitrillion dollar looming surplus. I thought that was why the Republicans jammed through a $1 trillion tax cut, particularly heavily oriented towards those who earn over $273,000 a year. Most of whom are not homeless, I expect.

Mr. Chairman, 3.5 million people are likely to experience homelessness during a given year in the United States, and 45 percent of those people will be employed. They do not meet the stereotypes. Thirty-nine percent are children, as mentioned by the gentleman from Massachusetts before me, and 27 percent are disabled.

One-third of families currently requesting shelter have to be turned away for lack of room, families trying to stay together. The family values party does not want to help them stay together because they are not putting the money out to do the job.

I am especially concerned in light of the committee's decision to increase the permanent housing set-aside, the 35 percent. Just last year the permanent housing set-aside was raised to 30 percent of all funds under McKinney-Vento. That last-minute change does not sound like it means anything except a percent here, in Washington, D.C.; a billion here, a billion there. But the last-minute change of Congress caused HUD to reprioritize their grants, and new transitional housing projects for homeless families were left on the chopping block.

In fact, in my district alone, Douglas County lost $126,458, a county with a very high unemployment rate that has been hit hard because of the recession in the timber industry. Curry County lost $113,637. Benton, Lincoln, and Lynn lost $271,518.

Other States lost money because of this additional set-aside.

□ 2115

We should not be forcing these sorts of choices; $1.3 million all together for rural Oregon counties and $1 million for rural continuum of care.

We do not have to make that choice. If I just went back and pulled out the budget and the rosy scenario and all the things that have been used here on the floor to pass the tax cut that favors those who earn over $273,000 a year, we would find that if we just applied those same assumptions and rosy scenarios, or God forbid we cut back on the big tax breaks for those at the very top, we could afford all these and we would not have to make these choices.

So I reject what is being offered on the majority side, saying, oh well, we just cannot afford that this year, maybe next year; and, well, we have to make these tough choices. These are choices that need to be made to hold together the social fabric of this society, to hold together homeless families, to help the 39 percent of homeless kids, and the 27 percent who are disabled. We, the greatest society on Earth, can afford to do this little bit.

I urge my colleagues to strongly support this amendment.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Lee-LaFalce amendment. According to HUD, over 10,000 San Franciscans are currently homeless. Shelter Plus Care and Supportive Housing Program permanent housing grants are a critical component of our nation's response to this growing crisis. These programs must be preserved, and this amendment provides the necessary funding.

Supportive housing programs link employment, substance abuse, mental health, and other supportive services to permanent supportive housing for chronically ill homeless individuals and families. Studies show that these programs are very successful. Tenants of supportive housing use fewer emergency room and inpatient hospital services, increase their earned income and rate of employment, and reduce their dependence on public assistance.

The claim that Shelter Plus Care does not need funding in FY 2002, and that such action would constitute ''forward funding'' is untrue. Failure to provide renewal funding will result in a significant shortfall for Shelter Plus Care Programs nationwide, and a loss of approximately 260 units of housing in my district.

I urge my colleagues to support the Lee/LaFalce amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there further debate on the amendment?

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote, and pending that, I make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 189, noes 230, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 280]

AYES—189

Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldacci
Baldwin
Barcia
Barrett
Becerra
Bentsen
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop
Blagojevich
Bonior
Borski
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Condit
Conyers
Coyne
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Doyle
Edwards
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank
Frost
Gephardt
Gonzalez
Green (TX)
Gutierrez
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hefley
Hill
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hoeffel
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
John
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
Kucinich
LaFalce
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Luther
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Millender-McDonald
Miller, George
Mink
Moore
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Rivers
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott
Serrano
Sherman
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (MS)
Thurman
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Velazquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watson (CA)
Watt (NC)
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOES—230

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Akin
Armey
Bachus
Baker
Ballenger
Barr
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bereuter
Biggert
Bilirakis
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Boswell
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Coble
Collins
Combest
Cooksey
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis (IL)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeLay
DeMint
Diaz-Balart
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
English
Evans
Everett
Ferguson
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Fossella
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Herger
Hilleary
Hobson
Hoekstra
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Isakson
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kerns
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kleczka
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Largent
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
LoBiondo
Lucas (OK)
Maloney (CT)
Manzullo
McCrery
McHugh
McInnis
McKeon
Menendez
Mica
Miller, Gary
Mollohan
Moran (KS)
Morella
Myrick
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reynolds
Riley
Roemer
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roukema
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaffer
Schrock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Stump
Sununu
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thornberry
Thune
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Toomey
Traficant
Upton
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins (OK)
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—14

Blumenauer
Cubin
Hall (OH)
Hutchinson
Istook
Linder
Lipinski
McKinney
Meeks (NY)
Miller (FL)
Nethercutt
Radanovich
Spence
Stark

□ 2149

Messrs. MCHUGH, KINGSTON, GUTKNECHT, GILLMOR, and PORTMAN changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Mr. RAHALL and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. ARMEY was allowed to speak out of order.)

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Chairman, after consulting with the committee that has jurisdiction on the floor this evening, we have determined that it is possible, with cooperation from our Members, for us to take the five votes that have been ordered thus far this evening in just a few more moments. Those five votes would be the last votes that Members would be asked to cast this evening. We would ask that the committee continue to work through title II this evening, with an understanding that any votes that are ordered on title II will be taken up at 9 o'clock in the morning when we resume the bill, and having completed the work through title II should make it possible for us, with good cooperation, to complete consideration of this bill by 2 o'clock tomorrow, our normal Friday getaway time.

The committee has been very cooperative. The committee is to be commended for their good spirit and their efforts to make life better for the Members. I should, however, advise the Members at this time that if we are unable to finish the work by 2 o'clock tomorrow, and everybody that has examined the amendments that are before us is in agreement that we should be able to do so comfortably given the time agreements that we can make, but if that is impossible, we will continue tomorrow to work beyond our normal Friday getaway time until such time as the bill is completed, and we will not leave until the bill is completed.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ARMEY. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Chairman, on a bit lighter note for all of our colleagues, tonight happens to be a great event that you may not be aware of, but tonight happens to be the 20th anniversary of MIKE OXLEY being a Member of this great institution, having been elected in a special election in 1981. I think we all owe MIKE OXLEY a great round of applause for his 20th anniversary.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ARMEY. I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished leader for yielding.

I question the gentleman's estimate about when we can finish this bill even if we were to proceed here tonight. There is a lot of material here. He might be right, he might be wrong, but my judgement is he is probably underestimating the amount of time it is

going to take to finish this bill. I would not expect to be able to be finished by 2 o'clock tomorrow.

Mr. ARMEY. I appreciate the gentleman's observation. Let me just say, Mr. Chairman, that would be unfortunate for so many Members who had planned to leave by 2, but it has been my experience in this body that when we all work together and pull in the same direction, in good humor and cheer, that we can meet our goal. I fear we must try. Our schedule for next week is, quite frankly, very exciting; and we simply cannot afford to let this bill hold over for next week.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ARMEY. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman, I understand Members' desires to leave, but there is a constitutional responsibility to debate seriously important issues. I am the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity. Under the schedule proposed by the majority leader, we would be debating much of these important housing issues beginning sometime after 11 o'clock tonight until the early hours with no votes. I cannot agree to that, and I must inform Members that there will be no assurance of not having votes. There are votes on appeals from the chair. There are motions to rise. The problem is that important issues have to be discussed. We have all week next week. I am ready to work, but I will not agree, and Members should not expect to leave at 11 o'clock while we debate these important issues and not have votes.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman from Massachusetts has made his point. The fact is he can, in fact, delay everything we try to do tonight and prevent us from completing our work. In that event we would have to work through the weekend.

SEQUENTIAL VOTES POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed in the following order: amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY); amendment No. 17 offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER); amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS); amendment No. 22 offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ); amendment No. 15 offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE).

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FOLEY

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The Clerk designated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 107, noes 311, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 281]

AYES—107

Ackerman
Akin
Baird
Barr
Bilirakis
Bonilla
Boswell
Boyd
Bryant
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Chabot
Coble
Condit
Costello
Crane
Crowley
Davis (FL)
Davis, Jo Ann
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Engel
Evans
Ferguson
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Fossella
Gallegly
Gekas
Gephardt
Gilman
Goodlatte
Goss
Greenwood
Gutierrez
Hansen
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Herger
Hilleary
Hostettler
Hutchinson
Israel
Jenkins
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kerns
Kildee
King (NY)
Kingston
Larsen (WA)
Lewis (KY)
LoBiondo
Maloney (CT)
Manzullo
McCarthy (NY)
Mica
Moran (KS)
Myrick
Ney
Otter
Pascrell
Paul
Pence
Pitts
Putnam
Ramstad
Rangel
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Sandlin
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaffer
Schrock
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Stearns
Strickland
Tancredo
Tauscher
Thurman
Tiberi
Toomey
Traficant
Turner
Udall (NM)
Visclosky
Weiner
Wexler

NOES—311

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Allen
Andrews
Armey
Baca
Bachus
Baker
Baldacci
Baldwin
Ballenger
Barcia
Barrett
Bartlett
Barton
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bishop
Blagojevich
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonior
Bono
Borski
Boucher
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Castle
Chambliss
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Collins
Combest
Conyers
Cooksey
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Crenshaw
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
Dicks
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Ganske
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gonzalez
Goode
Gordon
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Grucci
Gutknecht
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hefley
Hill
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Horn
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
John
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
Kirk
Kleczka
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Largent
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCollum
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Millender-McDonald
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mink
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Norwood
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Regula
Rehberg
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ross
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sawyer
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stenholm
Stump
Stupak
Sununu
Sweeney
Tanner
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Thune
Tiahrt
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Upton
Velazquez
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watkins (OK)
Watson (CA)
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—15

Bass
Blumenauer
Cubin
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hunter
Istook
Linder
Lipinski
McKeon
Miller (FL)
Nethercutt
Northup
Spence
Stark

□ 2214

Mr. PICKERING and Mr. Langevin changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Messrs. FLETCHER, SCHROCK, SESSIONS and ENGLE changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. BASS. Mr. Chairman, on rollcall No. 281, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no''.

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Chairman, on rollcall No. 281, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no''.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6, of rule XVIII, the Chair announces that he will reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the period of time within which a vote by electronic device will be taken on each amendment on which

the Chair has postponed further proceedings.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. NADLER

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIRMAN. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 139, noes 284, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 282]

AYES—139

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Baca
Baldacci
Baldwin
Barrett
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Blagojevich
Bonior
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Capps
Carson (IN)
Clay
Coyne
Crowley
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeLauro
Dicks
Doggett
Engel
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frost
Gonzalez
Gutierrez
Harman
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jones (OH)
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
Kleczka
Kucinich
LaFalce
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Luther
Maloney (NY)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Millender-McDonald
Miller, George
Mink
Mollohan
Moran (VA)
Nadler
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Rivers
Roemer
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott
Serrano
Sherman
Shows
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stenholm
Strickland
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Thompson (CA)
Thurman
Tiberi
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Velazquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watt (NC)
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu

NOES—284

Aderholt
Akin
Andrews
Armey
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bentsen
Bereuter
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Borski
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capuano
Cardin
Carson (OK)
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Collins
Condit
Conyers
Cooksey
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (CA)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
English
Eshoo
Everett
Ferguson
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Fossella
Frank
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Kanjorski
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kerns
Kildee
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Lampson
Largent
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lucas (OK)
Maloney (CT)
Manzullo
Markey
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCrery
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McKeon
Meek (FL)
Mica
Miller, Gary
Moore
Moran (KS)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Napolitano
Neal
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reynolds
Riley
Rodriguez
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roukema
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaffer
Schrock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Stump
Stupak
Sununu
Sweeney
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Thune
Tiahrt
Tierney
Toomey
Traficant
Turner
Upton
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins (OK)
Watson (CA)
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wolf
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—10

Blumenauer
Combest
Cubin
Hall (OH)
Linder
Lipinski
Miller (FL)
Nethercutt
Spence
Stark

□ 2222

Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Mr. RUSH and Mr. BERMAN changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The Clerk designated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIRMAN. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 60, noes 360, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 283]

AYES—60

Andrews
Bishop
Blagojevich
Bonior
Brady (PA)
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Clay
Clyburn
Condit
Conyers
Costello
Cummings
Davis (IL)
Davis, Jo Ann
DeGette
Doyle
Evans
Fattah
Filner
Gephardt
Gutierrez
Hilliard
Hoeffel
Holt
Honda
Jackson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kucinich
Lampson
Lee
Lewis (GA)
Lucas (KY)
McCarthy (NY)
McKinney
Mink
Myrick
Napolitano
Owens
Payne
Pelosi
Rahall
Ross
Rush
Sandlin
Schakowsky
Scott
Shays
Solis
Tauscher
Thompson (MS)
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Velazquez
Waters
Watson (CA)
Wynn

NOES—360

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Allen
Armey
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldacci
Baldwin
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Clayton
Clement
Coble
Collins
Combest
Cooksey
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Crowley
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeFazio
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Farr
Ferguson
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Frank
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Harman
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes

Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kerns
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kleczka
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaFalce
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Largent
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCollum
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Millender-McDonald
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Nadler
Neal
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sawyer
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaffer
Schiff
Schrock
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stump
Stupak
Sununu
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Toomey
Towns
Traficant
Turner
Upton
Visclosky
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins (OK)
Watt (NC)
Watts (OK)
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—13

Berman
Blumenauer
Cubin
Hall (OH)
Hilleary
Linder
Lipinski
Meehan
Miller (FL)
Nethercutt
Otter
Spence
Stark

□ 2229

Ms. HARMAN, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. DOGGETT changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MS. VELÁZQUEZ

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIRMAN. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 216, noes 209, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 284]

AYES—216

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldacci
Baldwin
Barcia
Barrett
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop
Blagojevich
Bonior
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Burr
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Chabot
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Condit
Conyers
Costello
Coyne
Cramer
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Dunn
Edwards
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Fossella
Frank
Frost
Gephardt
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green (TX)
Gutierrez
Hall (TX)
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hoeffel
Holden
Honda
Hooley
Horn
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
John
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
Kleczka
Kucinich
LaFalce
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Millender-McDonald
Miller, George
Mink
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (KS)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Phelps
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Reyes
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Schaffer
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott
Serrano
Sherman
Shows
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thurman
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Velazquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watson (CA)
Watt (NC)
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Wilson
Woolsey
Wu

NOES—209

Aderholt
Akin
Armey
Bachus
Baker
Ballenger
Barr
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Biggert
Bilirakis
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Bryant
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Castle
Chambliss
Clyburn
Coble
Collins
Combest
Cooksey
Cox
Crane
Crenshaw
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeLay
DeMint
Diaz-Balart
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Ehrlich
English
Everett
Ferguson
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Goode
Goodlatte
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutknecht
Hansen
Hart
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holt
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Isakson
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, Sam
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kerns
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Largent
Latham
LaTourette
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
LoBiondo
Lucas (OK)
McCrery
McHugh
McInnis
McKeon
Mica
Miller, Gary
Moran (VA)
Morella
Myrick
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Regula
Rehberg
Reynolds
Riley
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roukema
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Scarborough
Schrock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Stump
Sununu
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Thune
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Toomey
Traficant
Upton
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins (OK)
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wolf
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—9

Blumenauer
Cubin
Hall (OH)
Linder
Lipinski
Miller (FL)
Nethercutt
Spence
Stark

□ 2239

Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. STEARNS, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, and Mr. ISAKSON changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. MATHESON, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. LAFALCE

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE)

on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIRMAN. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 124, noes 300, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 285]

AYES—124

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Baldacci
Baldwin
Barrett
Becerra
Bentsen
Berkley
Berman
Bishop
Blagojevich
Bonior
Borski
Boswell
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Capps
Capuano
Carson (IN)
Clay
Clayton
Conyers
Coyne
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutsch
Engel
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank
Frost
Gephardt
Gordon
Green (TX)
Gutierrez
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kilpatrick
Kleczka
Kucinich
LaFalce
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Luther
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Miller, George
Mollohan
Nadler
Neal
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Owens
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Sabo
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Schaffer
Schakowsky
Scott
Serrano
Sherman
Smith (WA)
Solis
Strickland
Thompson (CA)
Tierney
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Velazquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watson (CA)
Watt (NC)
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Wu

NOES—300

Aderholt
Akin
Andrews
Armey
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bereuter
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Boucher
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Brown (SC)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Cardin
Carson (OK)
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Collins
Combest
Condit
Cooksey
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis (FL)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeGette
DeLay
DeMint
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
English
Eshoo
Everett
Ferguson
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Harman
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Issa
Istook
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kerns
Kildee
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Largent
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
LoBiondo
Lucas (OK)
Maloney (CT)
Manzullo
Mascara
McCarthy (MO)
McCrery
McHugh
McInnis
McKeon
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Millender-McDonald
Miller, Gary
Mink
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Napolitano
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Pallone
Paul
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roukema
Royce
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sanchez
Saxton
Scarborough
Schiff
Schrock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Stenholm
Stump
Stupak
Sununu
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Toomey
Towns
Traficant
Turner
Upton
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins (OK)
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wolf
Woolsey
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—9

Blumenauer
Cubin
Hall (OH)
Linder
Lipinski
Miller (FL)
Nethercutt
Spence
Stark

□ 2247

Mrs. NAPOLITANO changed her vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that there be no more procedural votes this evening; that the committee be allowed to work with the Members in question on title II of the bill, without interruption; and as they complete that work this evening, any votes that are ordered on amendments be postponed until 9 a.m. tomorrow morning.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair already has the authority to postpone votes on amendments but not on procedural motions.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that there be no more procedural votes this evening and that the committee be allowed to continue its work on title II.

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee of the Whole cannot entertain that request.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that title II be considered as read and open for amendment at any time.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

Mr. FRANK. I object.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Chairman, it is clear and obvious to me that the Members of this body cannot work tonight effectively and make progress on this bill. That is unfortunate. Obviously, it will delay our departure tomorrow. But in consideration of the mood that we find on the floor this evening,

Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE) having assumed the chair, Mr. SHIMKUS, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PLAN COLOMBIA SEMI-ANNUAL OBLIGATION REPORT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 3204(e) of Public Law 106–246, I hereby transmit a report detailing the progress of spending by the executive branch during the first two quarters of Fiscal Year 2001 in support of Plan Colombia.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *July 26, 2001.*

REPORT ON H.R. 2647, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107–169) on the bill (H.R. 2647) making appropriations for the legislative

branch for the fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All points of order are reserved on the bill.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2172

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2172.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Rhode Island?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HORN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REVISIONS TO ALLOCATION FOR HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, Pursuant to Sec. 314 of the Congressional Budget Act and Sec. 221(c) of H. Con. Res. 83, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2002, I submit for printing in the Congressional Record revisions to the allocations for the House Committee on Appropriations.

Adoption of the conference report on H.R. 2216, the bill making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2001, reverses the $184,000,000 outlay adjustment for fiscal year 2002 that was required upon the reporting of that bill by the Appropriations Committee. The conference report on the supplemental did not include any emergency-designated appropriations, which necessitated the earlier adjustment.

As reported to the House, H.R. 2620, the bill making appropriations for Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies for fiscal year 2002, includes an emergency-designated appropriations providing $1,300,000,000 in new budget authority to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. No outlays are expected to flow from that budget authority in fiscal year 2002. Under the provisions of both the Budget Act and the budget resolution, I must adjust the 302(a) allocations and budgetary aggregates upon the reporting of a bill containing emergency appropriations.

As passed by the House, H.R. 2590, the bill making appropriations for the Department of Treasury, the Postal Service, and General Government for fiscal year 2002, included $146,000,000 in new budget authority and $143,000,000 in outlays for an earned income tax credit compliance initiative. I also must adjust the 302(a) allocations and budgetary aggregates upon the reporting of a bill containing appropriations for that purpose, up to the limits specified in the Budget Act (which are the same as the amounts shown above).

To reflect these required adjustments, I hereby increase the 302(a) allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations to $662,746,000,000 for budget authority and $682,919,000,000 for outlays. The increase in the allocation also requires an increase in the budgetary aggregates to $1,627,934,000,000 for budget authority and $1,590,617,000,000 for outlays.

These adjustments apply while the relevant legislation is under consideration and take effect upon final enactment of such legislation. Questions may be directed to Dan Kowalski at 67270.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LANGEVIN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HOYER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MATHESON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CARSON of Indiana addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HMO REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE) is recognized for half the time between now and midnight as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, we have some important issues coming up in this next week, I hope. One of those, I hope, will be a full debate with a fair rule on a patient's bill of rights.

We have been working on this legislation for about 5 years, and when we had this debate here on this floor 2 years ago, a young man and his mother came up from Atlanta, Georgia, to see how the debate would go. This little boy's name was James Adams.

When James was 6 months old, one night about 3 in the morning, he had a temperature of about 105 degrees. He was a pretty sick little baby. His mother phoned the 1–800–HMO number and she said, my little baby is really sick and has a temperature of over 104, and I think he needs to go to the emergency room. She was following the rules to get an authorization.

The HMO reviewer at the end of that telephone line said, well, I guess that would be all right. I will authorize you to go to this one particular emergency room because that is where we have our contract. But if you go to another one, you are on your own. So Jimmy's mother said, well, where is it? And the voice at the end of the telephone line said, I do not know, find a map.

Well, it turned out that this authorized hospital was clear on the other side of Atlanta, Georgia, at least 50 miles away. So, with an infant who was critically ill, a mom and dad who were not health professionals put little Jimmy in the car, they wrapped him up, and started their trek to the hospital. En route they passed three emergency rooms, but they did not have authorization to stop at those emergency rooms, and they knew if they did they would be left with the bill.

They were not medical professionals. They did not know how sick little Jimmy was.

□ 2300

So they pushed on. But before they made it to the authorized emergency

room, little James Adams had a cardiac arrest.

Imagine yourself as the mother of this little baby, trying to keep him alive, or as the father driving this car when your wife is holding your son. He is not breathing, and you are trying to find the authorized emergency room.

Finally, he pulled into the driveway. His mother, Lamona, leaped out of the car screaming, ''Save my baby. Save my baby.''

The nurse came running out and started resuscitation. They put in an IV. They gave him drugs. They got his heart going, and they managed to save his life. But you know what? They did not save all of Jimmy.

Because of that arrest and the loss of circulation to his hands and to his feet he developed gangrene. Both hands and both feet had to be amputated. That was a medical decision that that HMO made. That reviewer could have said, your baby is sick. Take him to the closest emergency room. No. Dollars came over good sense. We have a contract with that distant emergency room. So we are only going to authorize care there.

Mr. Speaker, I suspect that we are going to have some people on this floor next week or maybe in September when we debate this bill, and they are going to get up here and they are going to say we should not legislate on the basis of anecdotes. That is just an anecdote.

I would say to those folks, that little boy is never going to touch the cheek of the woman that he loves with his hand. He is never going to play basketball. He is able to pull on his leg protheses with the stumps of his arm. But to get on his bilateral arm prostheses he needs help. He has hooks.

I will tell you, that little anecdote, he is now about eight. He is a pretty good kid. He is doing all right. I think he will be a productive member of society. But that little anecdote, as some would call that little boy, if he had a finger and you pricked it, it would bleed.

So I talk to my friends here on both sides of the aisle and I ask, why has it taken 5 years to rectify that? Do you know why that HMO did not take the proper care and precaution? Why they ''cut the corners,'' as a judge who looked at the case said. That HMO's margin of error was razor thin, razor thin that judge said about that HMO's margin of safety. Probably about as razor thin as the scalpel that had to cut off both hands and both feet.

Do you know why that HMO did that? Because they passed here in Congress a law 25 years ago that said that the HMO is responsible for nothing but the cost of care denied. If they deny care to somebody who is dying and the patient dies, then they are not responsible for anything. In the case of this little boy, the only thing that HMO was responsible for was the cost of his amputation.

That child was in an employer plan protected under a law that was passed here in Congress 25 years ago, never meant to be applied to the health system. It was a pension law meant to benefit the people who were to get the pensions. It was not supposed to be a protection for health plans.

Mr. Speaker, how did this come about? Well, there has been a change in the health care system. It used to be the insurance companies, back 25 years ago, they did not make those kinds of decisions. They did not manage the care like they do now. You had a fee-for-service system, but the system has changed. We have seen time and time again HMOs consider the bottom line to be better or more important than the care of their beneficiaries.

That is why it is very important that we address this situation. I can tell one story after another, but those would just be anecdotes.

I can tell about a woman in Des Moines, Iowa, who just a week or two ago came up to me with tears in her eyes. She said, Congressman, I have had breast cancer. I have been on chemotherapy. My doctor told me that I needed a test to see whether the cancer had come back. But my HMO would not authorize it. They said it was not, quote, medically necessary. And HMOs can define medical necessity any way that they want. Some define medically as the cheapest, least expensive care, quote/unquote.

She said, I had to ask my husband to do something I had never asked him to do before. She said, I told my husband, Bill, you are going to have to fight and battle that HMO for me because they have worn me out. I am fighting my cancer. I need a test. All of my doctors say I do. There is no specific exclusion of coverage in my contract, and they will not give it to me.

Well, after a long time they finally said, yes, we will give it to you; and the morning she was supposed to have the test they changed their mind.

Mr. Speaker, we need a way to resolve these disputes before patients are injured. That is why in the Ganske-Dingell-Norwood bill we have a way to resolve these disputes. If an HMO denies care, a patient can appeal it in the HMO; and if they continue to deny it and the patient thinks they are not being treated fairly, the patient can go to an independent, external review panel of physicians. Their decision will be binding on the plan. But their decision would not be bound by the plan's own arbitrary guidelines of medical necessity, and that is one of the crucial differences between the Ganske-Dingell bill and the Fletcher bill.

If we look at the details of the language in the Fletcher bill, the bill supported by the leadership of this House, Members will see that through very, very clever, I would say cunning language, the independent panel can really only tell the HMO to do what an HMO reviewer would have done.

Furthermore, that HMO would not be liable for anything other than what a person acting in a similar situation, i.e., another medical reviewer, would have done. Ordinary care is the definition defined in a way that puts into legislative language protections that the HMOs do not even have now. The Fletcher bill gives HMOs affirmative defenses that they do not have under ERISA now. What we are trying to do is fix the law as it exists now.

□ 2310

So I tell my colleagues and friends on both sides of the aisle, if you vote for that Fletcher bill, you are going to be voting for a bill that is worse than current law. You are going to be voting for a bill that protects HMOs more than ERISA does now.

I do not know whether my colleagues want to go home and explain to their constituents how when we are dealing with a bill that is supposed to protect patients, they voted for a bill that protected HMOs. That does not make sense. We need a real patient protection bill.

I could go through a long list and read in boring detail how the legislative language in the Fletcher bill is worse than current law. But let me just read a short section from a nonpartisan law professor at George Washington University who has analyzed the Fletcher bill and says of the Fletcher bill:

First through its strong preemption language, the Fletcher bill would significantly restrict legal remedies that are potentially available now under State law in the case of death and injury caused by managed care organizations that operate medically substandard systems of care. In doing so, the Fletcher bill would displace decades of American jurisprudence regarding the liability of health organizations for the death or injury that they caused.

The Fletcher bill basically moves State law into Federal law. So for all of my colleagues who have spoken highly of States rights and the 10th amendment in the past, how are you going to justify that position with a vote for Fletcher? Dr. Rosenbaum says:

Second, the Federal remedy created by the legislation fails to provide a minimally acceptable alternative and even this remedy is rendered meaningless through caveats, limitations and provisos. The Federal remedy would have the effect of federalizing managed care medical liability law.

Now, my friends, you have an alternative. It is called the Ganske-Dingell-Norwood-Berry bill. This bill has been debated in the Senate. A lot of Republican Senators worked very hard to improve that bill. For instance, Senators SNOWE and DEWINE further strengthened the bill's language protecting employers from liability. It allowed an employer to shift responsibility to a designated decision-maker and thus free itself from liability when it is not involved in medical decision-making. That is important. That adds to our employer protections on liability that

says unless you are directly participating in an HMO's decision, you cannot be held liable. That is fair. Almost all the employers in my district back home hire a PPO or an HMO, they do not get involved in the decisions that they make and they are not responsible. They would not be liable. That will be in our bill as we bring it to the floor.

The DeWine amendment, Senator DEWINE from Ohio, a Republican, further restricted the ability to file class actions. The Warner amendment, JOHN WARNER, Republican from Virginia, had an amendment that will be in our bill. It caps attorneys' fees. The Thompson amendment, Senator FRED THOMPSON, Republican from Tennessee, will be in our bill, that requires exhaustion of appeal remedies before a cause of action can be brought. The Phil Gramm amendment, Senator PHIL GRAMM, Republican from Texas, clarified that nothing in the bill prevents independent medical reviewers to require plans or issuers to cover specifically excluded items or services. That will be in the Ganske-Dingell-Norwood-Berry bill.

There are a number of other important amendments that will be in our bill. One of them was the Santorum amendment, Senator RICK SANTORUM, Republican from Pennsylvania, defines fetuses born alive as persons under Federal law and makes them eligible for protection under the patients' rights bill. That will be in our bill. Furthermore, we have provisions in the Ganske-Dingell-Norwood bill that would help people afford health insurance. We have 100 percent deductibility for the self-insured, for their health premiums, as an example. We expand medical savings accounts. That was a significant compromise from the Democratic side.

We think that the cries that the sky will fall, the sky will fall that we heard in Texas but never happened, that premiums would go out of sight, that lawsuits would just multiply, there would be an explosion, none of that happened. We wrote our bill several years ago based on Texas law. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the cost of this bill in terms of insurance premiums would be a cumulative 4 percent over 5 years. Our opposition bill based on the Breaux-Frist bill from the Senate would raise premiums about 3 percent cumulative over 5 years. That is about 1 percent difference. We are talking in terms of increased costs for our bill of somewhere in the order of one Big Mac meal per employee per month. Most people in this country think that that would be well worth it in order to know that their insurance will actually mean something if they get sick.

There certainly has not been any explosion of lawsuits in Texas which our bill is modeled after. There have just been a handful. Several of them involve health plans that did not follow the law, demonstrating that there is a need for some type of enforcement. But a health plan ought to be liable if they are not following the law. There is a health plan in Texas that had a patient in the hospital who was suicidal, the doctor said the patient needed to stay in the hospital, the health plan said, "No, in our judgment, he doesn't need to be there, we're not going to pay for it," the family could not afford it, they took him home, he drank half a gallon of antifreeze and committed suicide that night. That health plan did not follow the law, because the law said that if there is a dispute, you are supposed to go to an expedited independent review and they just ignored it. If there is not an enforcement provision in these bills that is worth the paper it is written on, then nothing else in the bill will be worth what it is written on.

We have over 800 endorsing and sponsoring organizations commending our bill, calling for its passage. This includes most if not all of the consumer groups, the professional groups. They have looked at this bill in detail. They have looked at the Fletcher bill in detail. They know that if the Fletcher bill became law, it would abrogate the advances that have been made in States around the country in terms of protecting patients, particularly in the States that have placed some responsibility, some legal responsibility, on HMOs, States like Texas.

□ 2320

Now, Mr. Speaker, President Bush has issued a list of principles. We firmly believe that the Ganske-Dingell-Norwood bill meets those principles, especially after the addition of the amendments that were passed almost unanimously in the Senate.

The President has rightly been concerned about increases in costs. We think that our bill is affordable. The estimates by the Congressional Budget Office confirm that. Since the President during his campaign spoke glowingly of the patient protection bills in Texas, this is what we wrote our bill after. When I look at those seven points that the President said he would need to have for his signature, our bill meets those requirements.

Now, we are more than happy to work with President Bush on this, and our door is open. Members of our group have continued to discuss these items with the President. But it is time to move. It is time to get this legislation through the House and get it into the conference. We will be more than happy to continue discussions with the President on these.

I believe President Bush wants to see a Patients' Bill of Rights signed into law and this is the bill that meets his requirements, and it would just be a darn shame not to end up at the end of the day with a bill that meets those requirements, as we think our bill does.

Mr. Speaker, the Speaker of the House promised that we would have a vote on this patient protection bill before we left for our August recess. In fact, we were supposed to have this debate last week. Then it was postponed to this week. The word is out now that we may not have this vote next week either before we go home for August recess.

I would just remind my colleagues that every day HMOs around this country are making health decisions that in many cases are life and death. Those decisions are affecting our family members, our friends, our colleagues, our constituents back home. There is no excuse for not moving ahead and allowing the will of the House to work.

This is supposed to be a democratic institution. Let us have a fair debate, with a fair rule. Sure, there can be amendments. And let us let the will of the people work, and let us move forward in a prompt manner to help patients and our friends get a fair shake from their HMOs and their health insurers in their time of need.

I expect that people will keep their word on this. If we do not have this debate next week, that would be a shame. We should at least move promptly in early September.

But I will tell you, to not bring this bill up because you just cannot have your way, because you do not have the votes, is what I would call a pocket veto without a debate, and I do not believe that is the democratic way that we should run this House.

Mr. Speaker, let us move to a prompt and fair debate on this bill, and let us get on with the people's business.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LINDER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for after 5 p.m. today and the rest of the week on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. OLVER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LANGEVIN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MATHESON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. DEMINT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. HORN, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. NUSSLE, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, July 27, 2001, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the speaker's table and referred as follows:

3094. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report entitled, ''Parity of Pay and Benefits For Active Duty Service and Reserve Service; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3095. A letter from the Secretary of the Navy, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that certain major defense acquisition programs have breached the unit cost by more than 25 percent, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3096. A letter from the Inspector General-Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General and classified annex for the period ending March 31, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3097. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Increase in Rates Payable Under the Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve(RIN: 2900–AK40) received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3098. A letter from the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Safety Standard for Automatic Residential Garage Door Operators—received July 18, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3099. A letter from the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Standard for the Flammability of Children's Sleepwear: Sizes 0 through 6X; Standard for the Flammability of Children's Sleepwear: Size 7 through 14—received July 18, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3100. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revision to the California State Implementation Plan, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Lake County Air Quality Management District, Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [CA 210–0285; FRL–7013–4] received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3101. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan, Pinal-Gila Counties Air Quality Control District and Pinal County Air Quality Control District [AZ099–0039; FRL–7013–3] received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3102. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Full Approval of Operating Permits Program in Alaska [FRL–7012–9] received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3103. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District and San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [CA 169–0282; FRL–7013–5] received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3104. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendments to the Iranian Assets Control Regulations—received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

3105. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting a report on the Physicians' Comparability Allowance Program, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5948(j)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3106. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 14–105, ''Health-Care Facility Unlicensed Personnel Criminal Background Check Temporary Amendment Act of 2001'' received July 26, 2001, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3107. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 14–103, ''Carter G. Woodson Memorial Park Designation Act of 2001'' received July 26, 2001, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3108. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 14–96, ''Corrections Information Council Temporary Amendment Act of 2001'' received July 26, 2001, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3109. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 14–99, ''Closing of a Public Alley in Square 192, S.O. 93–89, Act of 2001'' received July 26, 2001, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3110. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 14–98, ''Campaign Finance Amendment Act of 2001'' received July 26, 2001, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3111. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 14–93, ''Lorenzo Larry Allen Memorial Park Designation Act of 2001'' received July 26, 2001, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3112. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 14–97, ''Closing of a Public Alley in Square 622, S.O. 99–24, Act of 2001'' received July 26, 2001, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3113. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 14–91, ''Election Petition Penalty Amendment Act of 2001'' received July 26, 2001, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3114. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 14–94, ''Fort Stanton Civic Association Real Property Tax Exemption and Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Temporary Act of 2001'' received July 26, 2001, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3115. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 14–90, ''Corrections Information Council Amendment Act of 2001'' received July 26, 2001, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3116. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 14–92, ''Chesapeake Regional Olympic Games Authority Temporary Act of 2001'' received July 26, 2001, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3117. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 14–106, ''Closing of Portions of 2nd and N Streets, N.E. and the Alley System in Square 710, S.O. 00–97, Act of 2001''received July 26, 2001, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3118. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind Or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Additions to the Procurement List—received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3119. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 14–100, ''Public School Enrollment Integrity Temporary Amendment Act of 2001'' received July 26, 2001, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1–233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3120. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's annual report for FY 2000; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3121. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, transmitting the Office's FY 2001–FY 2007 Strategic Plan; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3122. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Recruitment and Relocation Bonuses and Retention Allowances (RIN: 3206–AJ08) received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3123. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period April 1, 2001, through June 30, 2001 as compiled by the Chief Administrative Officer, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a; (H. Doc. No. 107–108); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

3124. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 010122013–1013–01; I.D. 070901A] received July 18, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

3125. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model AS332L2 Helicopters [Docket No. 2001–SW–04–AD; Amendment 39–12271; AD 2001–12–

16] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3126. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model MD–11 Series Airplanes Equipped With Pratt & Whitney Model PW4400 Series Engines [Docket No. 2001–NM–115–AD; Amendment 39–12215; AD 2001–09–10] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3127. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL–600–2B19 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2001–NM–32–AD; Amendment 39–12154; AD 2001–06–07] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3128. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report in accordance with the requirements of Section 2006(e) of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century entitled, ''Evaluation of Driver Licensing Information Programs and Assessment of Technologies''; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3129. A letter from the Deputy Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting a report of Building Project Survey for Canton, OH; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3130. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Determination of Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property [Rev. Rul. 2001–36] received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3131. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Foreign Trusts That Have U.S. Beneficiaries [TD 8955] (RIN: 1545–AO75) received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3132. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Recognition of Gain on Certain Transfers to Certain Foreign Trusts and Estates [TD 8956] (RIN: 1545–AY25) received July 19, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3133. A letter from the Chair, Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel, transmitting the Panel's Preliminary Advice Report on the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program (the Ticket Program); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 210. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes (Rept. 107–164). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida: Committee on Appropriations. report on the Revised Suballocation of Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2002 (Rept. 107–165). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 988. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 40 Centre Street in New York, New York, as the ''Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse'' (Rept. 107–166). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. House Resolution 193. Resolution requesting that the President focus appropriate attention on the issues of neighborhood crime prevention, community policing, and reduction of school crime by delivering speeches, convening meetings, and directing his Administration to make reducing crime an important priority, and for other purposes (Rept. 107–167). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. TAUZIN: Committee on Energy and commerce. H.R. 943. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the availability of influenza vaccine through the program under section 317 of such Act; with an amendment (Rept. 107–168). Referred to the Committee of the whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2647. A bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes (Rept. 107–169). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. COMBEST (for himself and Mr. STENHOLM):

H.R. 2646. A bill to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself, Mr. BALDACCI, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. FROST, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. REYES, and Mr. WAXMAN):

H.R. 2648. A bill to ensure excellent recruitment and training of math and science teachers at institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BURR of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BORSKI, Mr. SCARBOROUGH, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. COX, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. EHRLICH, Mr. GOODE, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. BARCIA, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. WYNN, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. UPTON, Mr. BRYANT, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. HALL of Texas):

H.R. 2649. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for uniform food safety warning notification requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CALLAHAN:

H.R. 2650. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of the duty on 2–Methyl-4,6-bis[(octylthio) methyl]phenol; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CALLAHAN:

H.R. 2651. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of the duty on 4-[[4,6–Bis(octylthio)-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl]amino]-2,6-bis(1,1 dimethylethyl)phenol; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CALLAHAN:

H.R. 2652. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of the duty on Calcium bis[monoethyl(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl) phosphonate]; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. CLAYTON (for herself, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. POMEROY, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. MCKINNEY, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Mr. WYNN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. FORD, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas):

H.R. 2653. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to improve the agricultural credit programs of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CLEMENT (for himself, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. MICA, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 2654. A bill to designate the Surface Transportation Board as a forum to improve passenger rail and other fixed guideway passenger transportation by allowing improved access to freight track and rights-of-way for fixed guideway transportation in consideration for just and reasonable compensation to freight railroads; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 2655. A bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to establish a National Guard program to assist at-risk youth develop life skills; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

H.R. 2656. A bill to designate certain lands in the State of Colorado as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. DELAY (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. MORELLA, and Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia):

H.R. 2657. A bill to amend title 11, District of Columbia Code, to redesignate the Family Division of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia as the Family Court of the Superior Court, to recruit and retain trained and experienced judges to serve in the Family Court, to promote consistency and efficiency in the assignment of judges to the Family Court and in the consideration of actions and proceedings in the Family Court, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. DEMINT (for himself, Mr. ARMEY, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, Mr. COOKSEY, Mr. FLETCHER, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SHADEGG, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. PITTS, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. PENCE, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr.

PAUL, Mr. MANZULLO, and Mr. TIBERI):

H.R. 2658. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude employer contributions to health care expenditure accounts from gross income, and to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify the applicability of such title to plans employing such accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HALL of Ohio (for himself, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. HOBSON, and Mr. BOYD):

H.R. 2659. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance science and technology planning and budgeting by the Air Force, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

H.R. 2660. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to prepare and publish annually a consumer guide to prescription drug prices; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. BONIOR, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. FRANK, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. FILNER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. STARK, Mr. FROST, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. LUTHER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HINCHEY, Mrs. CLAYTON, Ms. LEE, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. BARRETT, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. EVANS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. OWENS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. VISCLOSKY):

H.R. 2661. A bill to provide certain requirements for labeling textile fiber products and for duty-free and quota-free treatment of products of, and to implement minimum wage and immigration requirements in, the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PAUL:

H.R. 2662. A bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, the Judiciary, Financial Services, Government Reform, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STARK (for himself, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SERRANO, and Ms. RIVERS):

H.R. 2663. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to amend the trade regulation rule on ophthalmic practice to require the release of prescriptions for contact lenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KOLBE (for himself, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. DREIER, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. LEACH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. REGULA, and Mr. UPTON):

H. Con. Res. 201. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should establish an international education policy to further national security, foreign policy, and economic competitiveness, and promote mutual understanding and cooperation among nations; to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, and Ms. KILPATRICK):

H. Res. 211. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Bush Administration should send a high-level delegation to participate at the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance; to the Committee on International Relations.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 2664. A bill for the relief of Brenda Jean Nellis; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

H.R. 2665. A bill to authorize the use of a vessel to transport the former naval medium harbor tug USS *Hoga* to Port Everglades, Florida, for use as a memorial to veterans and for providing vocational seamanship training; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 68: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 87: Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 97: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 162: Mr. EHRLICH, Mr. BONILLA, and Mr. KING.
H.R. 189: Mr. GOODE.
H.R. 218: Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. WELLER, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mrs. BIGGERT.
H.R. 239: Mr. HEFLEY, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DOYLE, and Mr. RADANOVICH.
H.R. 257: Mr. PLATTS, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. MCINNIS, and Mr. VITTER.
H.R. 267: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 303: Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 599: Mr. EHRLICH.
H.R. 606: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 633: Mr. BOSWELL and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 661: Mr. REYNOLDS and Mr. BLUNT.
H.R. 668: Mr. SHUSTER.
H.R. 684: Ms. NORTON, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. MCKINNEY, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 701: Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, and Mr. ACKERMAN.
H.R. 703: Mr. BONIOR.
H.R. 774: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 804: Mr. GRAHAM and Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 822: Mr. GRAHAM.
H.R. 854: Ms. MCKINNEY.
H.R. 868: Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. DICKS, and Mr. SCOTT.
H.R. 909: Mr. FOSSELLA.
H.R. 918: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. GREENWOOD.
H.R. 936: Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. SABO.
H.R. 951: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 968: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 972: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 995: Mr. FRANK.
H.R. 1073: Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 1110: Mr. WICKER.
H.R. 1134: Mr. MCINNIS.
H.R. 1136: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1151: Ms. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 1170: Mr. BOSWELL.
H.R. 1177: Mr. GOODE, Mr. COYNE, Mr. LATOURETTE, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. FARR of California.
H.R. 1178: Mr. FRANK.
H.R. 1194: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1198: Mr. PLATTS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. OBERSTAR, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 1202: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. GRAHAM.
H.R. 1238: Mr. MATSUI, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. SHAW.
H.R. 1243: Ms. MCKINNEY.
H.R. 1268: Mr. TANCREDO.
H.R. 1296: Mrs. KELLY, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. NUSSLE, and Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 1305: Mr. STRICKLAND and Mr. PASTOR.
H.R. 1350: Mr. OLVER.
H.R. 1367: Mr. BONIOR.
H.R. 1377: Mr. INSLEE, Mr. BEREUTER, and Mr. FOSSELLA.
H.R. 1408: Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 1507: Mr. BENTSEN, Mr. NETHERCUTT, and Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 1536: Mr. MARKEY, Mr. FORD, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H.R. 1556: Mr. SHUSTER and Mr. GOODE.
H.R. 1582: Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
H.R. 1596: Mr. FILNER and Mr. MCHUGH.
H.R. 1600: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. WELLER.,
H.R. 1602: Mr. KELLER, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. SAM JOHNSTON of Texas, Mr. FLETCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. DEAL of Georgia.
H.R. 1605: Ms. HART.
H.R. 1609: Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky.
H.R. 1613: Mrs. BIGGERT and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 1624: Mr. FARR of California, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WEINER, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. SABO and, Mr. REGULA.
H.R. 1650: Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 1680: Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. DINGELL, and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 1693: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. LEACH, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 1770: Mr. HASTERT.
H.R. 1779: Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. LAMPSON, and Mr. EHLERS.
H.R. 1835: Mr. ENGLISH.
H.R. 1841: Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. GREEN of Texas, and Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 1875: Mr. QUINN.
H.R. 1896: Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 1948: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 1964: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 1979: Mr. COOKSEY, Mr. KELLER, Mr. HALL of Texas, and Mr. GORDON.
H.R. 1998: Mr. BLUNT, Mr. ORTIZ, and Mr. GEKAS.
H.R. 1987: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BAKER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 1990: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FORD, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. MCKINNEY, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, and Mr. BERMAN.

H.R. 2012: Mr. GILMAN and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.
H.R. 2033: Mr. BECERRA, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. WATERS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LANTOS, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2037: Mr. THOMAS, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. BOEHLERT, and Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 2070: Mr. DOOLEY of California.
H.R. 2074: Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PASTOR, and Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
H.R. 2081: Mr. ROHRABACHER.
H.R. 2094: Mr. PAUL and Mr. OTTER.
H.R. 2095: Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
H.R. 2117: Mr. WEINER.
H.R. 2118: Mr. PITTS and Mr. FRANK.
H.R. 2154: Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 2155: Mr. SCHAFFER.
H.R. 2156: Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 2211: Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WU, and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 2219: Mr. GOODE.
H.R. 2220: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. EHRLICH, and Mr. MCNULTY.
H.R. 2258: Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 2310: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 2317: Mr. FILNER, Mr. BORSKI, Mr. STARK, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. MCNULTY, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. GRUCCI, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FROST, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. GONZALEZ.
H.R. 2329: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. GOODE, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. REHBERG, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. WYNN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. WU.
H.R. 2333: Ms. RIVERS.
H.R. 2334: Mr. COBLE.
H.R. 2337: Mr. SCHAFFER.
H.R. 2339: Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 2348: Mr. HONDA, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 2357: Mr. DELAY, Mr. BAKER, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. RILEY, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. ARMEY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, and Mr. GRAHAM.
H.R. 2363: Mr. HOEFFEL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 2404: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 2466: Mr. DEMINT, Mr. SHOWS, and Mrs. NORTHUP.
H.R. 2478: Ms. SANCHEZ.
H.R. 2484: Mr. DOYLE and Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 2485: Mr. MATSUI.
H.R. 2487: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 2492: Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. HALL of Texas, and Mr. HILL.
H.R. 2507: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
H.R. 2560: Mr. ACKERMAN and Mr. DEUTSCH.
H.R. 2573: Ms. RIVERS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. WAXMAN, and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 2592: Mr. EHRLICH.
H.R. 2608: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. TOWNS,, and Mr. SAWYER.
H.R. 2615: Mr. FLAKE.
H.R. 2624: Mr. GILMAN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. MCNULTY, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 2629: Mr. BLAGOJEVICH.
H.R. 2630: Mr. BARRETT.
H.R. 2637: Mrs. MEEK of Florida and Mr. GREENWOOD.
H.J. Res. 6: Mr. FRANK.
H.J. Res. 15: Mr. MOLLOHAN.
H.J. Res. 54: Ms. HART.
H. Con. Res. 36: Mr. TOOMEY and Mr. PLATTS.
H. Con. Res. 58: Mr. HOEFFEL.
H. Con. Res. 155: Mr. MATHESON.
H. Con. Res. 160: Mr. GEKAS and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Con. Res. 162: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H. Con. Res. 195: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H. Res. 132: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Mr. WALSH.
H. Res. 144: Mr. DUNCAN and Mr. OTTER.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 2172: Mr. LANGEVIN.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MR. BARCIA

AMENDMENT NO. 24: Page 62, line 21, after the first dollar amount insert the following: ''(reduced by $140,000,000)''.

Page 64, line 5, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(increased by $140,000,000)''.

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MR. BISHOP

AMENDMENT NO. 25: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ___. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.

Subtitle B of title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5197–5197g) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 629. MINORITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish a minority emergency preparedness demonstration program to research and promote the capacity of minority communities to provide data, information, and awareness education by providing grants to or executing contracts or cooperative agreements with eligible nonprofit organizations to establish and conduct such programs.

''(b) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—An eligible nonprofit organization may use a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement awarded under this section—

''(1) to conduct research into the status of emergency preparedness and disaster response awareness in African American and Hispanic households located in urban, suburban, and rural communities, particularly in those States and regions most impacted by natural and manmade disasters and emergencies; and

''(2) to develop and promote awareness of emergency preparedness education programs within minority communities, including development and preparation of culturally competent educational and awareness materials that can be used to disseminate information to minority organizations and institutions.

''(c) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS.—A nonprofit organization is eligible to be awarded a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this section with respect to a program if the organization is a nonprofit organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3)) and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code, whose primary mission is to provide services to communities predominately populated by minority citizens, and that can demonstrate a partnership with a minority-owned business enterprise or minority business located in a HUBZone (as defined in section 3(p) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(p))) with respect to the program.

''(d) USE OF FUNDS.—A recipient of a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement awarded under this section may only use the proceeds of the grant, contract, or agreement to—

''(1) acquire expert professional services necessary to conduct research in communities predominately populated by minority citizens, with a primary emphasis on African American and Hispanic communities;

''(2) develop and prepare informational materials to promote awareness among minority communities about emergency preparedness and how to protect their households and communities in advance of disasters;

''(3) establish consortia with minority national organizations, minority institutions of higher education, and faith-based institutions to disseminate information about emergency preparedness to minority communities; and

''(4) implement a joint project with a minority serving institution, including a part B institution (as defined in section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2))), an institution described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 326 of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1063b(e)(1)(A), (B), or (C)), and a Hispanic-serving institution (as defined in section 502(a)(5) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(5))).

''(e) APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURE.—To be eligible to receive a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this section, an organization must submit an application to the Director at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Director may reasonably require. The Director shall establish a procedure by which to accept such applications.

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $1,500,000 for fiscal year 2002 and such funds as may be necessary for fiscal years 2003 through 2007. Such sums shall remain available until expended.''.

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MR. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS

AMENDMENT NO. 26: In title II, in the item relating to ''PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING—PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL FUND'', after the aggregate dollar amount, insert the following: ''(reduced by $100,000,000)''.

In title II, in the item relating to ''PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING—REVITALIZATION OF SEVERELY DISTRESSED PUBLIC HOUSING (HOPE VI)'', after the aggregate dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $100,000,000)''.

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 27: In title I, in the paragraph under the heading ''VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION—MEDICAL CARE'' after the first dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 28: Page 7, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 29:

Page 21, line 13, after the first dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 21, line 24, after the first dollar, insert the following: ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 30:

In title III, under the heading ''NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS OPERATING EXPENSES''—

(1) strike ''orderly termination of the''; and

(2) strike the proviso at the end.

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 31: At the end of title II, insert the following new section:

SEC. 2___. For an additional amount for providing public housing agencies with tenant-based housing assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) to provide amounts for incremental assistance under such section 8, and the amount otherwise provided by this title for ''PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING—PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL FUND'' is hereby reduced by, $100,000,000.

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 32: In title II, in the item relating to ''PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING—HOUSING CERTIFICATE FUND'', after the aggregate dollar amount, insert the following: ''(reduced by $50,000,000)''.

In title II, in the item relating to ''PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING—HOUSING CERTIFICATE FUND'', after the seventh dollar amount (relating to incremental vouchers), insert the following: ''(reduced by $50,000,000)''.

In title II, in the item relating to ''PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING—HOUSING CERTIFICATE FUND'', after the eighth dollar amount (relating to amounts made available on a fair share basis), insert the following: ''(reduced by $50,000,000)''.

In title II, in the item relating to ''COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT—COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND'', after the aggregate dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $50,000,000)''.

In title II, in the item relating to ''COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT—COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND'', after the second dollar amount (relating to the community development block grant program), insert the following: ''(increased by $50,000,000)''.

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 33: In title III, at the end of the matter relating to ''NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION-SCIENCE, AERONAUTICS AND TECHNOLOGY'' insert the following: ''Additionally, for the Space Grant program, to promote science, mathematics, and technology education for young people, undergraduate students, women, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities in the State of Texas, for careers in aerospace science and technology, $8,900,000.''.

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 34: In title III, at the end of the matter relating to ''NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION-SCIENCE, AERONAUTICS AND TECHNOLOGY'' insert the following: ''Additionally, for the Minority University Research and Education Program to emphasize partnership awards that leverage the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's investment by encouraging collaboration among the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Other Minority Universities, and other university researchers and educators, $58,000,000.''.

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 35: In title III, at the end of the matter relating to ''NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION-EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES'' insert the following: ''Additionally, for training young scientists and engineers, creating new knowledge, and developing cutting-edge tools that together will fuel economic prosperity and increase social well-being in the years ahead, $662,000,000.''.

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 36: Page 54, after line 6, insert the following new section:

SEC. 208. The amounts otherwise provided by this title are revised by increasing the aggregate amount made available for ''PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING—HOUSING CERTIFICATE FUND'', increasing the amount specified under such item for incremental vouchers under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, reducing the amount specified under such item for rescission from unobligated balances remaining from funds previously appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, increasing the amount made available for ''COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT—COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND'', and increasing the amount specified under such item for the community development block grant program, by $100,000,000, $100,000,000, $324,000,000, $224,000,000, and $224,000,000, respectively.

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MS. PELOSI

AMENDMENT NO. 37: Page 92, strike lines 3 through 9.

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MR. RANGEL

AMENDMENT NO. 38: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

SEC. 4___. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce the requirement under section 12(c) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437j(c); relating to community service).

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MRS. TAUSCHER

AMENDMENT NO. 39: In title III, in the matter relating to ''ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY-STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS'', after each of the first 2 dollar amounts insert the following: ''(increased by $150,000,000)''.

In title III, in the matter relating to ''NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION-HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT'' after the overall dollar amount insert the following: ''(reduced by $150,000,000)''.

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MR. TRAFICANT

AMENDMENT NO. 40: At the end of the bill (preceding the short title) insert the following new section:

SEC. ___. No funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act shall be made available to any person or entity that has been convicted of violating the Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. 10a–10c).

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MR. WAXMAN

AMENDMENT NO. 41: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ___. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Department of Veterans Affairs to implement any provision of the April 2001 report entitled ''Plan for the Development of a 25-Year General Use Plan for Department of Veterans Affairs West Los Angeles Healthcare Center''.

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MR. WELDON

AMENDMENT NO. 42: Page 47, line 10, after the first dollar amount insert the following: ''(reduced by $50,000,000)''.

Page 72, line 5, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(increased by $50,000,000)''.

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MR. FRANK OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMENDMENT NO. 43: In title II, in the item relating to ''COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT—HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS ACT'', strike ''That of the total amount provided under this heading, $200,000,000'' and all that follows through ''as amended: *Provided further*,''.

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MS. KAPTUR

AMENDMENT NO. 44: At the end of title II, insert the following new section:

SEC. 2___. For carrying out the Public and Assisted Housing Drug Elimination Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 11901 et seq.) and the functions of the clearinghouse authorized under section 5143 of the Drug-Free Public Housing act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 11922), and the aggregate amount otherwise provided by this title for the ''HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM'' is hereby reduced by, and the amount provided under such item for the Downpayment Assistance Initiative is hereby reduced by, $175,000,000.

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MR. BONIOR

AMENDMENT NO. 45: At the end of the bill, insert after the last section (preceding the short title) the following new section:

SEC. **[-]**. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to delay the national primary drinking water regulation for Arsenic published on January 22, 2001, in the Federal Register (66 Fed.Reg. pages 6976 through 7066, amending parts 141 through 142 of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations) or to propose or finalize a rule to increase the levels of arsenic in drinking water permitted under that regulation.

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MR. MENENDEZ

AMENDMENT NO. 46: At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

''SEC. . Funding made available under this Act for salaries and expenses, excluding those made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Environmental Protection Agency, are reduced by $25,000,000 and funds made available for ''Environmental Programs and Management'' at the Environmental Protection Agency are increased by $25,000,000 for activities authorized by law: Provided, none of the funds in this Act shall be available by reason of the next to last specific dollar earmark under the heading ''State and Tribal Assistance Grants.''